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75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 231

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2020

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

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See IPI on **Page 4**

'IF I HAVE TO GO TO JAIL FOR PAYING OUR EMPLOYEES FIRST'

'That's a chance I'll take'

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kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

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"Whenever we receive funding from our parent company to assist our Saipan operation and

See **CHANCE** on **Page 4**



TREE TRIMMING TIME

Employees of the Saipan Mayor's Office trim the branches of trees that line the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway. Here, a claw truck picks up the shorn branches and drops them into the truck's cargo hold for disposal. Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who was at the project site, explained that the goal is to trim the lower portions of trees so that the public will gain a clear view of the ocean and to allow the unobstructed flow of air. The team began from The Shack in San Jose and going toward Garapan. After that, they will then start again from The Shack and trim the trees toward the south, ending around the Kanoa Resort area.

NEIL FAMA

'Tired to the bone': Hospitals overwhelmed with virus cases

By **PAUL J. WEBER** and
SARAH RANKIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Overwhelmed hospitals are converting chapels, cafeterias, waiting rooms, hallways, even

a parking garage into patient treatment areas. Staff members are desperately calling

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See **TIRED** on **Page 4**

101st COVID death in Guam

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three days ago, Guam recorded a grim milestone with the death of a 58-year-old man, who was the territory's 100th COVID-19-related fatality. Wednesday night marked another somber day for Guam, which saw its 101st COVID-19-related death.

According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, the latest case involved a 68-year-old male, who died at the Guam Regional Medical City at approximately 6:32pm Wednesday. JIC said the man

had underlying medical conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19. He was admitted to GRMC on

See **COVID** on **Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 8pm, Nov. 19, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	6,346	0	6,346
Recovered	4,341	0	4,341
Active	1,905	0	1,905
Deaths	100	1	101
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	79,919		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	103	0	103
Traced via Travel Screening	77	0	77
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	22,633*		
Days since last community transmission	96		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



LOCAL

KFC Saipan donates 120 meals to the men and women of the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force.

PAGE 11



BUSINESS

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PAGE 13



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Local

\$100K bench warrant issued against Norita

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court issued a bench warrant for \$100,000 for Nicanor Norita, a former probate estate administrator of the Rosa Flores Norita estate, who refused to show up in court for a status conference pursuant to a subpoena.

Camacho issued the bench warrant to immediately arrest Norita on sight for failing to attend the status conference to address the distribution of Jacinto Taman Flores share of \$1.3 million in the Antonio estate.

"The court is very much familiar with Norita's continued efforts to frustrate this court's efforts in ensuring that its order ordering the distribution of the share of Antonio's Estate to its sole heir, Jacinto, is carried out," Camacho stated in the warrant.

Norita allegedly initially resisted arrest by the U.S Marshals Service at his home in Chalan Kanoa but then later voluntarily followed the marshals to court after some coaxing by the officers. During the show-cause hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho commended the professionalism of the U.S Marshals who were assigned to carry out the warrant.

At the hearing yesterday, Camacho ordered Norita to explain why he was unable to attend the status conference and to hand over the bank book that allows the transfer of funds from the estate to Flores.

Under oath, Norita told the court that his home was burglarized last Friday and the in-

vestigation remains ongoing.

Among the things that were stolen, Norita said, was the satchel that held the bank book, his passport, and other important documents.

Norita said the burglar broke into his home through a screen door with a crowbar.

Camacho quashed Norita's bench warrant but also issued an order to authorize estate attorney Vince Torres to go to the bank and request the issuance of a check of \$1.3 million to Jacinto Flores.

According to court records, Norita filed a petition in June 2018 for letters of administration and for his appointment as administrator of his mother's estate, the estate of Rosa

Flores Norita. The petition listed Nicanor Norita and his brother, Juan Flores Norita, as heirs.

Jacinto Taman Flores filed a notice as an heir, claiming he was a *mwei mwei* heir of the estate of

Rosa Flores Norita.

Mwei mwei, a Refaluwasch way of adopting children, means a person can inherit from an estate as if they are a natural child.

Juan Flores Norita filed a notice of acceptance of Jacinto Flores' *mwei mwei* heirship claim.

The estate of Rosa Flores Norita is a sub-estate of the large Maria Mangabao estate, which received \$19.3 million from the CNMI government over the taking of the estate's land in Chalan Kanoa in 1993.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo issued the final distribution of the Mangabao estate to the heirs in January 2018.



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DPL budget in FY2020 was \$4.10M; revenue at \$5.39M

The Department of Public Lands' annual budget in fiscal year 2020 was \$4.10 million, but its total revenue was \$5.39 million, according to DPL's Citizen-Centric Report for fiscal year 2020.

DPL's CCR said their total revenue in fiscal year 2020 amounted to \$5,392,254 compared to \$6,702,776 in fiscal year 2019—a drop of \$1,310,22—but it still surpassed the budget allocated to the department.

DPL said their actual revenue continues to surpass the forecasted revenue predicted in the annual budget each year.

Since the beginning of the Torres administration in 2016, DPL revenue has increased, the report stated, and only posted a downward trend after 2018 as a result of the Commonwealth-wide recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu in 2019 and the COVID-19

global pandemic in 2020.

For land compensation, DPL said they issued \$270,900 in partial payments and \$134,686 in full payment, for a total of \$405,586.

Deveney Dela Cruz, special assistant to the DPL secretary, said they successfully complied with Public Law 20-83 for the second consecutive year by publishing the Citizen-Centric Report for fiscal year 2020.

Dela Cruz said this CCR provides the citizens of the CNMI with an understanding of their department structure, accomplishments, financial standing, and economic outlook over this past fiscal year.

She said DPL takes pride in continuously informing the public and government officials about DPL matters and that the CCR is another means for DPL to offer accountability and transparency. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

\$100K bail imposed on man who allegedly smuggled 'ice' via mail

The Superior Court has imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on a man who was allegedly caught bringing in methamphetamine or "ice" disguised as a package through the U.S. Postal Service on Saipan.

The Superior Court imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on Korey Leon, who is facing charges of importation of contraband, trafficking, and possession of crystal methamphetamine.

Last Tuesday, during Leon's bail hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted Leon's request to modify his bail and be released to his mother as his primary third-party custodian and his aunt, who was listed as the alternate third-party custodian.

Leon was not required to post bail after his third-party custodians acknowledged and assured the court that they know that they will be held liable to pay the full bail amount of \$100,000 if Leon violates his release conditions.

Camacho placed Leon on house arrest and told Leon that he could only leave the home if one of his third-party custo-


dians accompanies him.

According to court information, during a routine inspection at the U.S. Postal Service on Oct. 19, Customs officer Wesley Emul discovered a medium-sized, clear-sealed plastic bag that contained a white crystalline substance inside a white U.S. postal priority mail envelope.

The package, which was sent from Port Orchard, Washington, was picked up by Leon who told the Customs officer that he was receiving the envelope for his aunt.

The Customs officer informed his immediate supervisor, who brought in a contraband enforcement team to the Saipan postal facility to test and process the substance in the envelope. The substance tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine or "ice."

Leon, who agreed to speak without a lawyer, told an investigator that he knew what was inside the package prior to picking it up. He told the officer that he knew it contained "dope." *(Kimberly A. Bautista)*

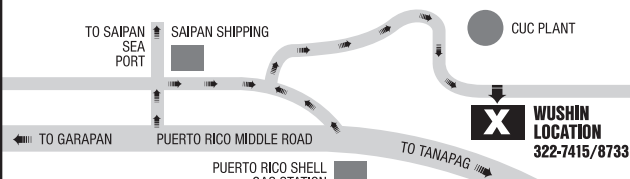


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is ongoing throughout this week through Jan. 23, 2021. The first day of classes is on Jan. 19, 2021.

Individuals who need financial aid can also apply for the Federal Student Aid program, which provides finan-

cial assistance to those who meet certain eligibility criteria.

Applications for admission and other forms may be picked up at NMC's Office of Admissions & Records located in Building N at the

NMC As Terlaje campus, or may be downloaded from www.marianas.edu. Supporting documents (i.e. transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and copy of a valid photo I.D.) must be turned in within 60 calendar days of submitting the admission application.

New students are required to take the math and English placement tests. A schedule of the placement test dates can be found at www.marianas.edu. Students can also make an appointment to take placement tests by calling 237-6774. New and readmitted students must also view the online student orientation program in order to register for courses.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a

bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (emphasis in accounting); associate of arts degree in business, associate of applied science degrees in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social work), associate of science in nursing, natural resources management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6772 or visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)

COVID

From Page 1

Nov. 12, 2020, and tested positive upon admission.

The 100th case in Guam passed away at the Guam Memorial Hospital. He was admitted to GMH on Oct. 18 and tested positive upon admission.

The *Guam Daily Post* later quoted Gov. Lou Leon-Guerrero that Guam is in a "third wave" of COVID-19 infections.

According to the newspaper that quoted a speech Leon Guerrero delivered for the Rotary Club of Guam,

she reportedly stated that the surge was due in part to an increase in the number of infections in the construction industry. She assured, though, in the same speech that her administration will take a targeted approach in containing the coronavirus, easing fears of a stricter lockdown.

In a JIC release, Leon Guerrero emphasized that the island has the necessary tools to slow the spread of COVID-19, which is wearing masks, social distancing, keeping up with proper hygiene, and staying home as much as possible. If the island continues to practice these COVID-19 protocols, they will "get out of this crisis stronger than before," she said.

"We are told those who mourn will be comforted. To his family and friends, may you find comfort from the love and support of those around during this most difficult time. Please accept our condolences and sympathies," said Leon Guerrero in her message to Guam's latest fatality.

As of Nov. 16, 2020, Guam's COVID Area Risk Score remains at 41.5 and will be recalculated once reports from all participating labs are up to date through the weekend. The CAR Score accounts for the incidence of new cases, how well current testing identifies these cases, and the rate of spread. An ideal CAR Score for Guam would be 5.0 and below.

TIRED

From Page 1

Fatigue and frustration are setting in among front-line workers.

Conditions inside the nation's hospitals are deteriorating by the day as the coronavirus rages across the U.S. at an unrelenting pace and the confirmed death toll surpasses 250,000.

"We are depressed, disheartened and tired to the bone," said Alison Johnson, director of critical care at Johnson City Medical Center in Tennessee, adding that she drives to and from work some days in tears.

The number of people in the hospital with COVID-19 in the U.S. has doubled in the past month and set new records every day this week. As of Tuesday, nearly 77,000 were hospitalized with the virus.

Newly confirmed infections per day in the U.S. have exploded more than 80% over the past two weeks to the highest levels on record, with the daily count running at close to 160,000 on average. Cases are on the rise in all 50 states. Deaths are averaging more than 1,155 per day, the highest in months.

The out-of-control surge is leading governors and mayors across the U.S. to grudgingly issue mask mandates, limit the size of private and public gatherings ahead of Thanksgiving, ban indoor restaurant dining, close gyms or restrict the hours and capacity of bars, stores and other businesses.

New York City's school system—the nation's largest, with more than 1 million students—suspended in-person classes Wednesday amid a mounting infection rate, a painful setback in a corner of the country that suffered mightily in the spring but had seemingly beaten back the virus months ago.

Texas is rushing thousands of additional medical staff to overworked hospitals as the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients statewide accelerates toward 8,000 for the first time since a deadly summer outbreak.

In the worsening rural Panhandle, roughly half of the admitted patients

in Lubbock's two main hospitals had COVID-19, and a dozen people with the virus were waiting in the emergency room for beds to open up Tuesday night, said Dr. Ron Cook, the Lubbock County health authority.

"We're in trouble," Cook said.

In the Texas border city of El Paso, overwhelmed morgues have begun paying jail inmates \$2 an hour to help transport the bodies of virus victims. The crush of patients is forcing the city to send its non-COVID-19 cases to hospitals elsewhere in the state.

More than 5,400 extra medical personnel have been deployed around Texas by the state alone, said Lara Anton, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of State Health Services. And that doesn't include the help surging into Texas from the military and volunteer organizations.

"There are only so many medical personnel to go around," said Dr. Mark McClellan, a former head of the Food and Drug Administration.

Ballad Health system, which is located in the Appalachian mountains and includes the Tennessee hospital where Alison Johnson works, has warned that it and its workers are stretched so thin that without a change in course, its hospitals might have to turn patients away. Ballad reported having just 16 available ICU beds Wednesday and about 250 team members in isolation or quarantine. It is trying to recruit hundreds more nurses.

In Idaho, doctors warned that hospitals have almost reached the point where they need to ration care, unable to treat everyone because there aren't enough beds or staffers to go around.

"Never in my career did I think we would even contemplate the idea of rationing care in the United States of America," said Dr. Jim Souza, chief medical officer for St. Luke's Health System.

In Reno, Nevada, Renown Regional Medical Center began moving some coronavirus patients into its parking garage.

Video of the converted garage before it opened to patients showed rows and rows of beds separated by

moveable white screens set up on one level of the stark, cavernous garage, each section designated by letters and each bed space marked by a number on the ground. The garage unit currently houses 27 patients but at peak capacity will have enough beds to accommodate more than 1,400, said Dr. Paul Sierzenski, Renown's chief medical officer for acute care.

In Kansas, hospitals are converting spaces such as chapels and cafeterias for use by COVID-19 patients, said Cindy Samuelson, spokeswoman for the Kansas Hospital Association.

Stormont Vail Health in Topeka, Kansas, devoted an entire hospital floor to COVID-19 patients as their numbers swelled, hitting 90 on Wednesday. The hospital also converted two surgery waiting rooms for use by non-infected patients, spokesman Matt Lara said.

Kansas health chief Dr. Lee Norman said a system that he likened to air traffic control for coronavirus patients is being put in place so nurses from rural hospitals can make a single call to find a larger hospital that can take their sickest patients.

In some cases, nurses and doctors in Kansas have been spending up to eight hours looking for a large hospital with an opening in cities as far away as Denver, Omaha or Kansas City.

"The problem with this is, by the time you transfer these patients out they already are very ill at that point," said Kansas nurse practitioner Perry Desbien.

At the same time, patience is wearing thin over the lack of mask wearing that is contributing to the problem in rural areas.

"It kind of feels like we're just, you know, yelling into the abyss," said Cheyanne Seematter, a registered nurse at Stormont Vail. "We keep telling everybody to stay home, wear a mask, that it is actually bad here."

Maryland health officials similarly set up a centralized clearinghouse with information on available ICU beds so that hospitals need only make a single phone call. State authorities also issued an emergency order prohibiting most hospital visitors until further notice.

CHANCE

From Page 1

the funds are insufficient to cover all outstanding liabilities, I will always choose to authorize payment of the payroll of our hardworking employees before paying other obligations such as millionaire attorney's legal fees. Sanctions are a priority, but a second priority," he said.

Browne added that he'll oblige if the court orders his incarceration if it means being able to authorize payroll payments.

"If I have to go to jail for paying our employees first before paying millionaires, then that's a chance I'll have to take. Our great employees who provide unwavering support through all the of the recent adversity are more deserving," he said.

Browne said that paying IPI employees is IPI's first priority, especially with the casino's continued closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"[Halegua] and [Bruce Berline] are very well aware that we are struggling to pay employees during our closure. They may feel that paying them is a higher priority than paying our employees [but] they are mistaken," he said.

Browne said Imperial Pacific In-

ternational Holdings Limited may have the means to pay court sanctions to keep him from being jailed, but that is still unsure.

"The New York attorney [Halegua] is a master manipulator of the truth and will spin things anyway he can to get attention. He's trying to use me as a pawn to force the company to act....Our parent company, IPIH, may find some funding to pay the sanctions so that I'm not incarcerated, but I'm not sure. Being incarcerated would be sort of hard to explain to my 4-year-old daughter and 4-month-old son," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Halegua asked the court to order IPI to explain why its CEO, Browne, should not be jailed for failing to satisfy the judgment against the company.

Halegua argued that Browne, specifically, should be held in contempt because he knew about the order[s], he controls IPI, and he failed to ensure IPI's compliance.

On top of the incarceration of its CEO, other sanctions that Halegua suggested is for IPI to be held in contempt of court, plus additional contempt sanctions be imposed if IPI fails to comply, again, if the court issues an order to show cause.

IPI

From Page 1

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for updated information about the Department of Public Works' order to stop construction work, IPI chief executive officer Donald Browne said yesterday that they are still trying to resolve the dispute with their consultant engineers. He said everything is ready to be submitted to DPW once the dispute is over.

When asked how many more employees have been furloughed, Browne said he has no exact number but this affected only a few. He said he will check with their human resource office to obtain the total number of furloughed employees.

Browne said they advised other employees that they are not required to work until IPI satisfies past payrolls.

"As you know our business has been closed [due] to the pandemic and we have no income to support payroll and other obligations," he said.

Browne said they are still awaiting funds from their parent company in Hong Kong, but the funds have not arrived as scheduled.

"Although employees are understanding, this has created a severe hardship," he said in citing the need to furlough.

Resumption of construction work at the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan remains uncertain due to a payment dispute between IPI and its contractor, *Saipan Tribune* learned. Browne earlier said their construction team is not sure about the resumption of work due to the dispute. Browne said there is still a payment dispute with their consultant engineers that is causing additional delays in the submission of certified documents to the Department of Public Works.

IPI received the stop-work order from DPW last Oct. 27.

In its notice of violations, DPW's Building Safety Code Division ordered IPI to stop work immediately until it complies with some requirements.

TINIAN VETERANS DAY RITES

TINIAN—Seabees assigned U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian stand at attention during the resting of colors while observing the conclusion of Tinian's 2020 Veterans Day Program at the Tinian Veteran Memorial Park. The Seabees are on Tinian to prepare for the U.S. Department of Defense's plan to build a divert airfield on the island.

U.S. NAVY/CE3 MARCUS HENLEY



iPhones arrive at IT&E

IT&E will offer the new iPhone 12 family of devices—iPhone 12, iPhone 12 mini, iPhone 12 Pro and iPhone 12 Pro Max—on the widest most reliable 4G LTE network in Guam and the Marianas.

The new iPhones can be purchased starting Friday, Nov. 20, 2020, at ite.net and in all IT&E stores.

These devices give you everything you expect from an iPhone and more, including a fast, intelligent and power-efficient chip; portrait mode for studio-quality portraits and lighting effects; smart HDR for incredible detail across highlights and shadows; Dolby vision for HDR recording; great battery life; water resistant; stunning new finishes; and advanced privacy and security features.

The new iPhone 12 family rises above the rest with A14 Bionic, the fastest chip ever in a smartphone, and MagSafe, Apple's charging technology that was previously used on MacBooks and more recently on the Apple Watch, that uses magnets to wirelessly charge your iPhone 12, secure your device's accessories and to pave the way for the future of port less devices.

Each iPhone 12, iPhone 12 mini, iPhone 12 Pro and iPhone 12 Pro Max is equipped with a display fortified with Ceramic Shield, which boasts four times better drop performance than other smartphones.

iPhone 12 and iPhone 12 mini bring you a new dual-camera system and a beautifully bright Super Retina XDR display, all in two perfect sizes.

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Purchase the iPhone 12 series with the \$80 Unlimited plan on 12- or 24-month contract via the IT&E online store and get 15% discount on the handset plus a free Apple USB-C power adapter. This offer is available from Nov. 20 to 30, 2020. (PR)



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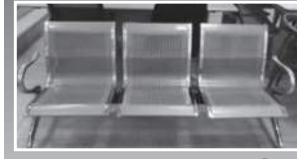
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MCS launches coupon fundraiser for the holidays

In an effort to raise much-needed funds and spread the Christmas spirit, Mount Carmel School recently launched a new program called the Mount Carmel School Holiday Coupon Fundraiser.

The purpose of the fundraiser is to provide the community

In an effort to raise funds and spread the Christmas spirit, Mount Carmel School recently launched a new program called the Mount Carmel School Holiday Coupon Fundraiser. Each booklet is priced at \$50 and contains 35 discount coupons from local establishments.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

with a complete booklet of holiday coupons from local establishments. As the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many families and the CNMI economy, this fundraiser also aims to provide families with discounts for this holiday season while also drawing customers to local businesses.

Funds raised by this program will be directly invested in Mount Carmel School's academic programs and services, COVID-19 mitigation resources, and infrastructural improvements as the school aims to increase more face-to-face classes by its

second semester.

Only 200 booklets are available for purchase and can be bought at the MCS Business Office from Monday to Friday between 7am and 4pm.

The \$50 holiday coupon booklet contains a total of 35 coupons with discounts from partners like Bubba Gump, Couples Cakery, Fishing Tackle, Great Harvest, Herman's Modern Bakery, Hong Ye Hardware, IT&E, Kensington Resort, Kiki's, McDonald's Saipan, MiscKnicks, Natural Nail Spa, Pao Pao, Surf Club Restaurant, T Bar, The Shack, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors. Participants of the fundraiser can save over \$200 this holiday season period.

Mount Carmel School president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said, "We are very excited to have launched this new pro-

gram to help the school, but what's especially exciting for us is to be providing our community with this opportunity to spread the Christmas spirit and make the gift of giving affordable during the holidays."

The school's director of Institutional Development, Victoria Deleon Guerrero, underscored the importance of the fundraiser not just for the school, but also for the CNMI economy. "I believe what this pandemic has made clear to us as a community is that an investment in local businesses is what will continue to keep our economy afloat. While our tourism market is on hold, we need to support local businesses and support families."

For more information about Mount Carmel School's Holiday Coupon Fundraiser, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (PR)

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Ohala Foundation to hold food and clothing drive on Saturday

The Ohala Foundation, a non-profit organization, will be holding a food and clothing drive this Saturday, Nov. 21, from 1pm to 6pm, at the Oleai pavilion across Modern Stationery on Saipan, near the Atkins Kroll intersection in San Jose.

This Saturday's Ohala Drive seeks to receive donations that will significantly benefit families of the CNMI with food and clothing that will be distributed throughout that community.

Leading the drive on Saipan will be 2019 Miss Earth NMI Leisha Deleon Guerrero. "I've always believed that it is important to use your given platform to empower and help our community with or without the title. I took the initiative to partner with the Ohala Foundation as a volunteer, to help organize and gather donations on the island of Saipan. We must continue to support our neighboring islands during these times" she said.

Tasi G. Long, who is the foundation's vice chair, said, "Any little amount helps. We're asking for the community to please reach out and help their fellow neighbor either through a small donation online at ohalafoundation.com or by bringing food and other needed items directly to the pavilion this Saturday."

Deleon Guerrero said there is a plan to reach out to local businesses and companies to help gather donations in hopes of providing more to those who need it the most. "This month, we will be contacting [businesses] throughout our

community to set up a box where customers and employees can donate food/clothing items, which will then be collected later next month. This Saturday, we have partners from Army ROTC [at the Northern Marianas College] and 4-H Marianas to assist us and we invite local businesses in our community to contact us via Facebook, Instagram, our website at ohalafoundation.org or phone if they would like to help be a part of this cause."



Deleon Guerrero

Rota, Saipan, and Tinian will benefit from these drives, as all funds, clothing and food will go to the Ohala Foundation's programs. The Tinian-based Ohala Foundation has plans for

its organization to expand to Saipan and Rota by February 2021; however, the foundation is already working with several groups to co-sponsor events on both islands prior to February.

The Ohala Foundation has held events on Tinian to commemorate the start of its operations. The Ohala Closet Grand Opening was held Nov. 3, followed by the Ohala Community Food and Clothing Drive on Nov. 3 and 4. Food bank meal distribution began on Nov. 6. The foundation will have a second food distribution on Nov. 20, will conduct a Basic Customer Service/Marketing Training Program on Nov. 30, and will feature a Spirit of Ohala Virtual Run on Dec. 12.

For more information on how to donate, volunteer or avail of services visit www.ohalafoundation.org or call 670-433-2664. (PR)

USCIS reaches H-2B cap for first half of FY 2021

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has received enough petitions to reach the congressionally mandated

cap on H-2B visas for temporary nonagricultural workers for the first half of fiscal year 2021.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4.9-magnitude quake on Saipan

At 5:05am on Nov. 19, 2020, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred at 164 miles north of Saipan in the Northern Marianas Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. **(PR)**

Wild about the Red Cross

Support continues to pour in for the 32nd American Red Cross Club 200. There are many exciting prizes in store for this year's event, made possible by generous donors. ACE Hardware and the Joeten Group of Companies have again pledged their support to the American Red Cross with many great new additions to this year's prize list.

"The American Red Cross' success in the CNMI is truly indicative of the trust bestowed upon our organization from the many corporate and community partners that have supported us over the years" said ARC executive director John Hirsh.

This year's fundraising event will be exclusively online this year due to COVID-19. This year's theme will be "Wild About the Red Cross" and include fantastic door prizes, auction items and a live streaming event on Dec. 19, Saturday.

Help support the Red Cross' humanitarian work by purchasing tickets. Tickets are only \$50 each and available online at www.redcross.org/club200. Every \$50 ticket purchase will have a chance to win door prizes. If buyers don't have a credit or debit card, contact the Red Cross office at 234-3459 for more information. **(PR)**

Military trainings

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Asan Point on Nov. 20-23, from 6am to 11pm at the following coordinates: 13°29'N/144°42'E. The public is advised to be aware of military personnel training in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor on Nov. 23-24 from noon to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be used for this training. Mariners and residents in surrounding areas

should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Radio Barrigada on Nov. 23-24, from noon to 11:55pm. The use of blank ammunition is authorized for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean on Nov. 23-24, from noon to 11:55pm at coordinates: 13°26'N/145°08'E, 13°42'N/144°36'E. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of these events and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Hagatna Bay on Nov. 24-27, from 6am to 11pm at the following coordinates: 13°29'N/144°45'E. The public is advised to be aware of military personnel training in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in the vicinity of Agat Bay on Nov. 25, from 8am to 5pm. The public is advised to be aware of military personnel training in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Pago Bay on Nov. 28 to Dec. 1, from 6am to 11pm. The public is advised to be aware of military personnel training in the area.

These trainings support readiness and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific. **(PR)**

Muslim community to hold beach cleanup today

Members of the Muslim community on Saipan will conduct four hours of beach cleanup today, Nov. 20, 2020. The event will start at 7am. One group will gather at the back of the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan and the other group will gather at the back of Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio. Both groups will be picking up trash going toward Kilili Beach Park in San Jose. Other members of the public are invited to join this activity in any of the areas at their convenience. Interested members are requested to bring their own face masks. An ad hoc committee will provide hand gloves and trash bags, as well as food and drinks. **(PR)**

Nov. 16 was the final receipt date for new cap-subject H-2B worker petitions requesting an employment start date before April 1, 2021. USCIS will reject new cap-subject H-2B petitions received after Nov. 16, that request an employment start date before April 1, 2021.

On Nov. 16, the number of beneficiaries USCIS received petitions for surpassed the total number of remaining H-2B visas available for the H-2B cap for the first half of FY 2021. In accordance with regulations, USCIS deter-

mined it was necessary to use a computer-generated process, commonly known as a lottery, to ensure the fair and orderly allocation of H-2B visa numbers to meet, but not exceed, the cap for the first half of FY 2021. On Nov. 18, USCIS conducted a lottery to randomly select petitions from those received on Nov. 16. As a result, USCIS assigned all petitions selected in the lottery the receipt date of Nov. 18. Premium processing service for petitions selected in the lottery also began on that date.

USCIS continues to accept H-2B petitions that are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap. This includes the following types of petitions:

Current H-2B workers in the U.S. who are extending their stay and, if applicable, changing the terms of their employment or changing their employers;

Fish roe processors, fish roe technicians, and/or supervisors of fish roe processing; and

Workers performing labor or services in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and/or Guam from

Nov. 28, 2009, until Dec. 31, 2029.

U.S. businesses use the H-2B program to employ foreign workers for temporary nonagricultural jobs. Currently, Congress has set the H-2B cap at 66,000 per fiscal year, with 33,000 for workers who begin employment in the first half of the fiscal year (Oct. 1 - March 31) and 33,000 (plus any unused numbers from the first half of the fiscal year) for workers who begin employment in the second half of the fiscal year (April 1 - Sept. 30). **(USCIS)**

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Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Don't give in to the gloom

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing its worrisome upswing and governments responding with what Supreme Court Justice Samuel "Give me indoor seating or give me death" Alito injudiciously describes as "previously unimaginable restrictions on individual liberty," it would be easy to feel a bit depressed. The days are shorter, the temperature is falling. There will be no big family holiday gatherings this year. And even the afterglow of Donald Trump's loss is fleeting as the soon-to-be evicted president does his best Richard III impression: Manipulative but now friendless, suspicious and lacking conscience, he has met his demise at Bosworth Field, but apparently doesn't know it. Perhaps someone could give him the CliffsNotes version of the Shakespeare play.

Yet easily overlooked in the angst of the moment are some happy events. Maryland—home to the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration and supporter of the winning presidential ticket—can be especially comforted by the re-ascendance of science and reason within the federal government, but there's more. And it would be wise to spend as much time contemplating these happy thoughts as considering what mischief Mr. Trump may yet inflict on the nation out of sheer spite.

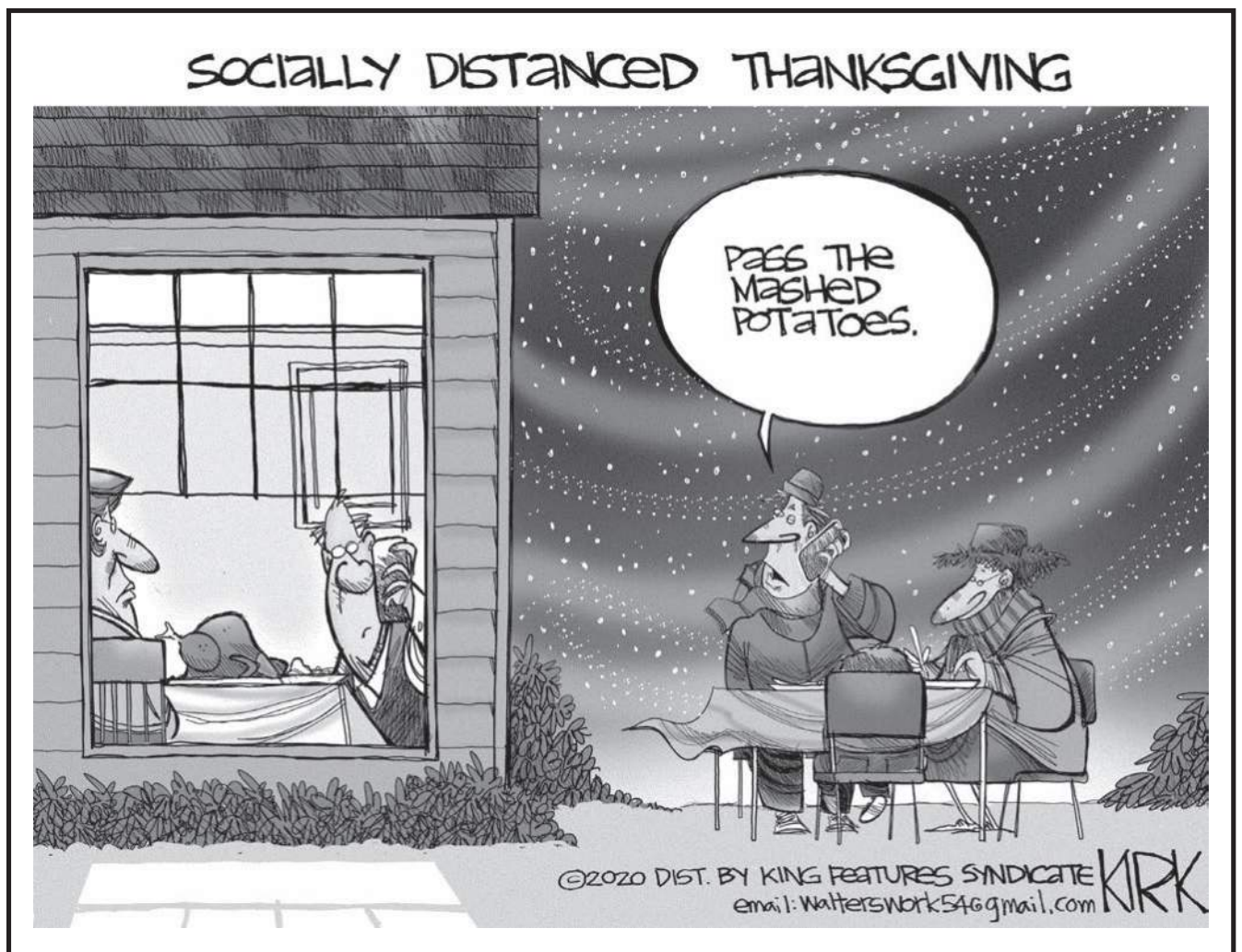
Here are five of the best:

1. The vaccine cometh. Surely, you've heard. No longer just a promise, there are now credible indications that a highly-effective vaccine may be available as early as December. It won't make everything suddenly go away. There are multiple challenges ahead including winning federal regulatory approval, distribution, potential side effects and convincing people to take it. But infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci thinks the vaccine, along with public health measures like wearing a mask, will be a "game-changer" by next summer, and that's good enough for us.

2. Overdue climate change progress. Here's one that might have gotten overlooked. One of the single biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the region is cleaning up its act, at least somewhat. Talen Energy has committed to no longer burn coal at its Brandon Shores and H.A. Wagner power plants in Curtis Bay by the end of 2025. Across the country, such facilities have been switching to natural gas for years if only because it's more affordable, but the hope is that the company will go greener than burning fossil fuels of any kind. Add this to President-elect Joe Biden's promise to address climate change and return to the Paris Agreement and the future of humanity has not looked brighter in, well, four years.

3. John Samuel Waters Jr., philanthropist. You know him as a transgressive cult filmmaker, as a writer, director, actor and all-around bon vivant, but now you can add major Baltimore Museum of Art patron to his unconventional resume. He's bequeathed a massive 375-piece collection that includes works of some major figures like Andy Warhol, Diane Arbus and Roy Lichtenstein. And what did he seek in

See GLOOM on Next Page



How I became a soldier in the fight against COVID-19

I was feeling dejected and powerless in August when I typed my name and contact information into an online database for vaccine studies, hoping someone might want my help.

California was seeing its second COVID-19 pandemic surge, and my children had just learned their school wouldn't reopen in the fall. My brother, a 37-year-old lawyer in San Francisco, had become severely ill with the coronavirus in March and was still struggling. And my mother, a longtime nurse at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, had fallen sick in April after examining a severely ill COVID-19 patient at her clinic for expectant mothers. "I guess I should update my will," she told me during her two-week quarantine.

I had nothing except a functioning immune system to offer in the fight against the pandemic, but I figured it ought to be put to use.

It was. And after multiple blood draws, repeated self-swabbed coronavirus tests and two injections of either Pfizer's experimental vaccine or a saline placebo, I was thrilled last week as the world celebrated preliminary news that Pfizer's vaccine candidate looks as if it could be 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 infection. (Pfizer said Wednesday a final analysis of clinical-trial data showed the vaccine was 95% effective.)

This isn't to say the study is over—far from it. The 44,000 of us participating in the drug company's Phase 3 trial will continue to be tested, and we will keep track of our health for many more months. But for someone like me, whose immediate family has been greatly affected by the coronavirus, this can't help but feel like a turning point. Finally, we may have a real chance to put behind us the hopelessness and dreadful mismanagement of the early pandemic and begin making steady progress, with new leadership and the promise of powerful new tools to use in the fight.

Progress toward a vaccine, rapid as it has been compared to the development of other vaccines, must seem frustratingly slow to those who have lost jobs, languished in isolation or put themselves at high risk on the front lines. But from my vantage point, the process has been reassuring. The trial has been run, as far as I can tell, painstakingly carefully and ethically.

At my initial screening to participate, I was interviewed, examined and made fully aware both of my rights and of all known risks. Of course, there are limitations to this process, considering I was taking part in a study partly aimed at discovering risks, but the sense that I got was that, if there were information to share, I would get it.

By **PAUL THORNTON**

Los Angeles Times

Paul Thornton is letters editor of the Los Angeles Times.



I got my first injection in September, and then I waited. I experienced nothing more than a sore arm, and two days later, I was clearing brush away from my mother-in-law's cabin in the San Bernardino Mountains. The second shot, given three weeks later, was a different story. The day after receiving it, I came down with flu-like symptoms. They were unpleasant, but lasted less than 24 hours.

That was quite a contrast to what my brother went through. He described feeling as if his chest had been filled with concrete. His fever swung between low-grade and severe, and he experienced an unrelenting lethargy. That all may sound familiar today, but nine months ago his symptoms were unnerving. He survived, as almost all coronavirus patients do, but full recovery has been elusive. In September, when wildfire smoke smothered cities on the West Coast, he and his husband had to flee San Francisco to protect my brother's fragile lungs.

I won't forget those early days of the pandemic. I remember my mother tearfully describing the shortage of masks and other protective equipment at work. It felt like we were all waiting for the hammer to fall, and it wasn't at all certain that the health care system could handle the volume of sick people likely to need care.

That fear hasn't passed, especially now that most of the country is experiencing another surge in coronavirus infections and deaths. My children still sit in front of screens instead of in a classroom, and, like so many others, my wife and I work at home and strictly limit our contact with the outside world.

But after last week's announcement, it finally feels like there is hope. In nondescript examining rooms in cities throughout the country, people with nothing but their time and immune systems to volunteer will continue quietly working to end this pandemic. I am immensely proud and grateful to be one of them.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why all 50 states need to allow teens to get vaccinated without parental consent

Long before Americans began clamoring for a novel coronavirus vaccine, a collection of teenagers across the nation was embarking on a quest for vaccination—by posing questions on Reddit. Teenagers with “anti-vax” parents were, and still are, desperately trying to figure out how to get vaccinated, but outdated laws in many states deny them agency.

As doctors, public health officials and regular citizens push for increased immunization, teenagers can and should have a role to play. They want autonomy—not simply to protect their personal well-being, but to help end preventable diseases for everyone.

All 50 states need to give teenagers the right to be vaccinated without parental permission.

When I was 16, I stumbled upon my peers’ Reddit posts. I was stunned by the fact they were asking these questions and by how difficult it was to find clear answers. After a year of research, I launched VaxTeen, an organization that helps teenagers make informed decisions about vaccines and provides simplified state-by-state guides on vaccine consent laws.

In the U.S., the ability of minors to consent to vaccinations depends on the state they live in. The patchwork of overlapping judicial decisions, state codes, federal laws and accepted practices that govern the age at which children can consent—and what vaccinations they can consent to, if any—is convoluted, inconsistent and at times deliberately obtuse. Since vaccines often aren’t even explicitly mentioned, deciphering whether a minor is allowed to self-consent is extraordinarily complex, especially for teenagers trying to do so without their parents’ support.

Only seven states allow minors above varying minimum ages to make all of their own health care decisions, including those concerning vaccines. Delaware and Montana allow them to self-consent to all recommended vaccinations, although in Montana this doesn’t extend to the HPV vaccine. Six states, including California, permit them to consent to HPV and/or hepatitis B vaccinations, and six states apply a subjective “mature minor” exception that allows minors to self-consent to vaccination if a health care professional determines they are sufficiently mature.

In response to measles outbreaks among under-vaccinated communities in 31 states last year, the Illinois and New York legislatures are considering bills that would broaden a minor’s ability to self-consent to vaccinations from only those preventing sexually transmitted diseases to all vaccines that are CDC-recommended. Similar bills are being deliberated in Georgia and Washington, D.C., where minor vaccine-consent is not allowed.

Parents who are increasingly opting not to vaccinate their children have endangered everyone as immunization rates have fallen too low to keep diseases like measles and whooping cough at bay. In the school year preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of childhood vaccine exemptions claimed by parents rose in 40 of 49 states with recorded data. Requiring parental consent also poses a barrier to immunization for older teens whose parents are pro-vaccination, since many of them attend routine checkups alone.

Dr. Arthur Caplan, founding director of the Division of Medical Ethics at New York University Langone Medical Center, told me “a mature minor” ought to be able to obtain—without parental consent—a “proven, safe intervention” that can prevent death or disability. “Parents should not have the authority to subject their children to serious preventable harm,” he said.

The American Medical Association and the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, among other medical organizations, strongly support laws permitting older minors to self-consent to vaccinations. Granting teenagers this right is essential to stemming the spread of diseases, whether they are newly emerging like COVID-19 or have faded from the news. For example, although measles was declared eliminated from the U.S. in 2000, last year the country had the highest number of cases since 1992.

Overall, more than 42,000 Americans die each year from diseases preventable by vaccination. Over the course of the pandemic, the U.S. has experienced a dramatic drop in already

By **KELLY DANIELPOUR**

Los Angeles Times

Kelly Danielpour is a senior at Crossroads School in Santa Monica, California, and founder of the organization VaxTeen.



falling childhood vaccination rates, driven by fears of being exposed to the virus in doctors’ offices and stoked by the growing prevalence of vaccine misinformation online. Minors must be allowed to self-consent to existing vaccinations—and to an adolescent COVID-19 vaccine once it is available.

Young people across the country are advocating for their medical rights to protect themselves and their communities. I am fortunate enough to have pro-vaccine parents, so I can only imagine the courage it takes to question your parents’ misguided beliefs. States should empower teenagers to act.

COVID-19 has served as a startling public health lesson: We each have a responsibility to prevent the transmission of disease—whether through vaccination or social distancing—to ensure our collective health. Encouraging our state legislatures to enact straightforward vaccine consent legislation for minors would help accomplish that.

The hypocrisy about reaction to Trump’s lawsuits

Call it the Great Hypocrisy. Democratic politicians, forgetting something referred to as the Mueller investigation, are accusing President Donald Trump of politically motivated mayhem for lawsuits about possible fraud in the presidential election. They say important matters are being delayed, that our system of presidential transitions is being squashed, that democracy is being spat upon and that institutional distrust is being fostered.

They also say there is nothing to be found that would alter the election outcome, and that is likely true. But Trump is still within the law and may be doing good in digging into the predicted, denied but actual mail-in ballot confusion. The lawsuits might help instruct us on how to deter future risks, such as by keeping the practice far more limited and procedures far more transparent and precise. And even assuming the worst, this is nothing compared to the Russia collusion probe headed by Robert Mueller.

Instead of a short hold on things, we had a two-year, multi-million-dollar shock-and-awe onslaught based on a collaboration of corrupt officialdom setting principles aside to come up with nothing. Here is an obvious contender for the worst ever governmental scandal, abetted to no small extent by misleading news accounts and lying Democrats.

The purpose was the impeachment of a legitimately elected president, and, yes, he could make you shudder, coming across as multidimensionally askew: a clown act, a demagogue, petty, occasionally mindless, uninformed and inexperienced. Some bureaucrats looked at that and were scared. They figured the government was pretty much theirs, forgot their oaths of office and were determined on White House eviction.

It is true that the Mueller investigation did put some Trump associates in prison for crimes having little if anything to do with the allegation, but, at the end, Mueller said he could not demonstrate campaign criminality, such as assisting Russians in their hacking of Democratic emails. He also said he would not exonerate Trump, as if that were ever the role of a prosecutor. We now know there was official lying before Congress and other unlawful conduct and that the Clinton campaign financed a deal with a former British spy who came up with phony dirt on Trump. It seems to have played a major role in the initial FBI probe.

By **JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



What accounts for Trump’s fawning over Russia President Vladimir Putin? That’s anybody’s guess, but not something you would see from a Russian agent trying to keep the fact hidden. Trump was indeed many times tougher on Russia than Obama, and the miracle is that, while having to climb over investigation hindrances, Trump accomplished quite a bit. The outrage was that we were treated to catastrophic malfeasance, and the insight is that there is something far worse than Trump out there that proves itself daily.

An instance of that was Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi urgently giving us a careless, devious House impeachment hearing. Again, there was no crime, just assumptions about what Trump may have intended in a phone call revealed by an unidentified whistleblower relying on secondhand information. Pelosi was smart enough to tell Republicans they could call no witnesses but confused enough to try to put pressure on Senate Republicans to find him guilty by sitting for weeks on needed impeachment papers needed for a concluding trial.

The impeachment proceedings did underline a stark Joe Biden conflict of interest as vice president, something actually more intriguing than the Trump phone call, but more importantly the proceedings caused a delay in focusing on and addressing a virus just making its appearance.

In addition to all of this, we also know about all the illegal leaks of classified information and that we have an ongoing criminal investigation under the Justice Department that could lead to criminal prosecutions of certain precious ones involved in some of the shenanigans. Unless charges are made soon, Biden’s attorney general will likely erase that pursuit of justice.

GLOOM






From Page 8

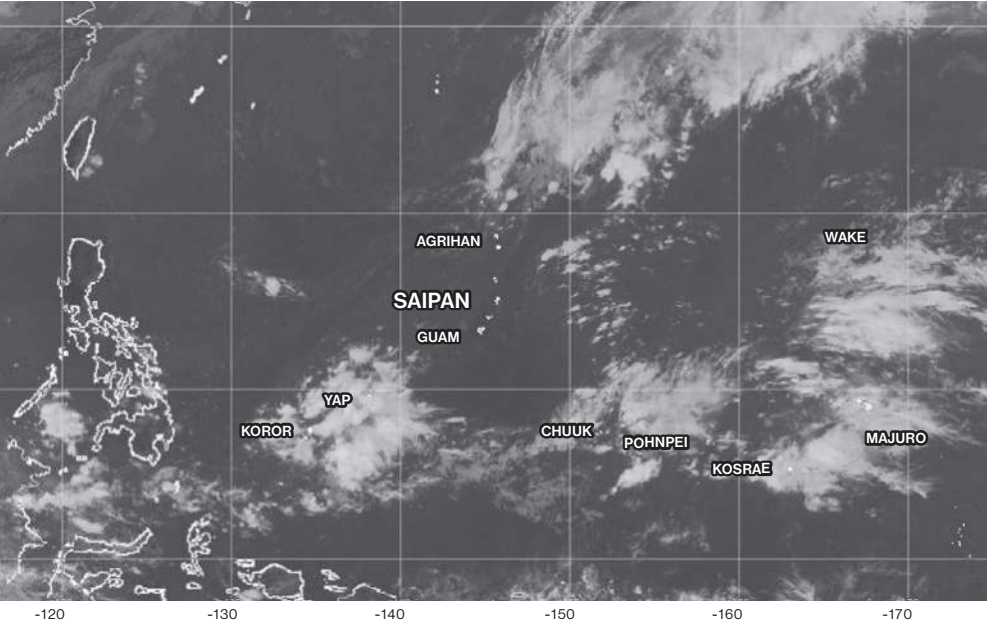
return? To have the bathrooms named after him. That, ladies and gentlemen, is the sly humor of a seriously unserious Baltimore native. We should all be more like him. Well, maybe just a little bit more. The BMA, locked in its own controversies about what art to keep or sell, should be thanking their pink flamingos.

4. Larry Hogan, political pugilist. Not a lot of Republicans have been willing to stand up to Mr. Trump who continues to enjoy cult-like status among many party faithful. Maryland’s governor has thrown some punches, and it’s gotten him national attention. Whether it leads to anything more (like a successful presidential candidacy) seems doubtful given Mr. Trump’s headlock on the GOP, but it took guts (and an intact soul) to give it a try.

5. Pippi Longstocking returns. No, not the beloved children’s book character, the seal. After nursing the injured, malnourished and dehydrated gray seal pup found near Dewey Beach, Del. to adulthood these last nine months and providing groundbreaking surgery to remove her damaged ear canal (a potentially fatal problem in deep-diving seals), the crew of the National Aquarium’s Animal Rescue Center returned Pippi to the Atlantic Ocean last Wednesday by way of Maryland’s Assateague State Park. May she enjoy many more molting seasons or, as her brassy fictional namesake would say, “Don’t you worry about me. I’ll always come out on top.”

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds becoming northeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	78°	88°	77°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:13 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with isolated showers and gentle to moderate trade winds prevail across the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Monday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Tuesday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:09 AM	10:41 PM	-
Saturday	11:58 AM	11:37 PM	-
Sunday	12:42 PM	-	-
Monday	-	12:29 AM	1:21 PM
Tuesday	-	1:18 AM	1:58 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	66° / 57°	
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 23°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°	
London	Cloudy	57° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84° / 61°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	90° / 63°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 69°	
New York	Sunny	59° / 50°	
Osaka	Rain	61° / 50°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	57° / 36°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°	
Salem	Cloudy	64° / 48°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	52° / 25°	
Tokyo	Showers	55° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	60° / 47°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			METER
5:20 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.12 m	
12:52 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.59 m	
6:29 PM	LOW TIDE	0.39 m	
10:26 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.5 m	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6		UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam		UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5		UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>									

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

120 KFC meals given to COVID-19 front-liners



Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and KFC staff flank KFC store manager Yole Aldan and CHCC CEO Esther Muña at the turnover of 120 meals donated to the 120 CNMI COVID-19 front-liners.

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

KFC Saipan delivered a total of 120 meals to the men and women of the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force last Tuesday to show support and gratitude for their hard work in keeping the CNMI community safe from the virus.

This venture is in collaboration with the feeding program of YUM! HeartComm initiative, wherein KFC outlets all over the world are given the option to choose their beneficiaries.

According to KFC Saipan store manager Yole Aldan, the goal of this program is to support and recognize the efforts of front-liners in the CNMI community. "We would like to thank them for their bravery, sacrifices, and their unflagging compassion..." she said. "This is a feeding program is not only by

KFC Saipan but is also being done on this very day around the world wherever there are KFC, Taco Bell, and Pizza Hut outlets."

This is the second time that KFC Saipan did this. The first time was in April when it donated 100 meals to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. front-liners.

"We appreciate the front-liners as they are the ones doing the hard work and we salute them for their non-stop commitment to help everybody," Aldan added.

Receiving the meals in behalf of the front-liners was CHCC CEO Esther Muna. "We thank them because the people of KFC—during the pandemic especially the early part of the outbreak—has always supported us. ...They don't have to do this but we are really grateful," she said. "The people at KFC are just as important as we are. ...

They are also essential workers. ...I think KFC was one of the first restaurants on island that established COVID-19 health and safety measures in their restaurant. ...I also want them and the community to understand that we do this as part of our job and we were here since the beginning and we will be here until the end."

This is YUM!'s final event of the year and is believed to be the world's largest YUM! cross-brand corporate social responsibility in food delivery. YUM! Foundation is known for encouraging fast-food franchises in the U.S. mainland to save extra food and donate them to non-profit organizations.

The partnership between KFC and YUM! Foundation started in 1992 and has helped feed people doing extraordinary jobs that deal with community service.

Hix: Dems' victory is a win for the people

» **Independents Sen. Manglona, Rep. Manglona declare as Democrats**

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Democratic Party chair Nola K. Hix said Wednesday that the victory of nine of their 18 candidates in the Nov. 3 general elections is a win for the people and called for unity for the good of the CNMI.

"Let us all move forward in solidarity for the betterment of our islands," Hix said.

She also claimed as a win for the party Rota independents Sen. Paul A. Manglona and Rep. Donald Manglona's declaration Tuesday night as NMI Democrats following the Commonwealth Election Commission's official declaration of the results of the election.

CEC's certified election results showed that nine Democratic Party candidates at the

Nov. 3 election, with Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero winning the Saipan Senate seat and Edwin Kenneth Propst, Celina R. Babauta, Christina Marie Elise Sablan, Denita K. Yangetmai, Vicente Castro Camacho, Sheila Therese Jack Babauta, Leila Haveia Fleming Staffler, and Richard Tudela Lizama making it to the House of Representatives.

Hix said that the CNMI will make history again in 2021, with more women than ever in office. She said they are proud that all of their women ran successful campaigns under their party's banner. She noted that women made up only 23% of all candidates, but took 26% of all elected positions available.

For the first time in decades, Hix said, not only did the Democratic Party offer a full slate, but they offered candi-

dates that are "credible, connected by their diversity, collaboration, and experience."

These candidates, she said, were able to put together not just a platform but a pledge to the people of the CNMI that sets them apart from the opposition.

"We're very proud of our rebirth of a two-party system and several voters have expressed their enthusiasm with the new faces, new voices, and new ideas, all ready to get to work for the people," Hix said.

She also congratulated Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) on his reelection to the U.S. Congress, along with the senators and House representatives of the incoming 22nd Legislature.

Hix thanked and congratulated the people for their vote of confidence and thanked the independent and Republican Party candidates for their civility throughout the early voting and election day.

For the Republicans, 10 Republican Party candidates won.



Hix

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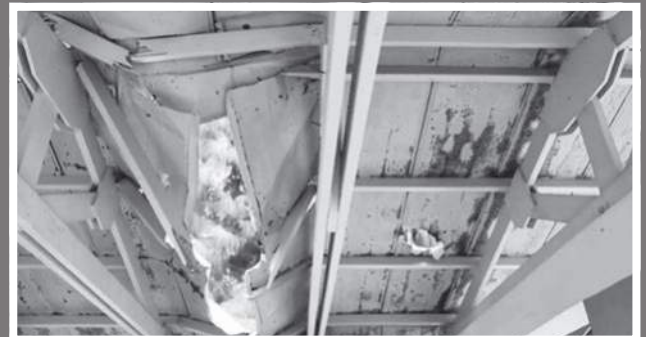
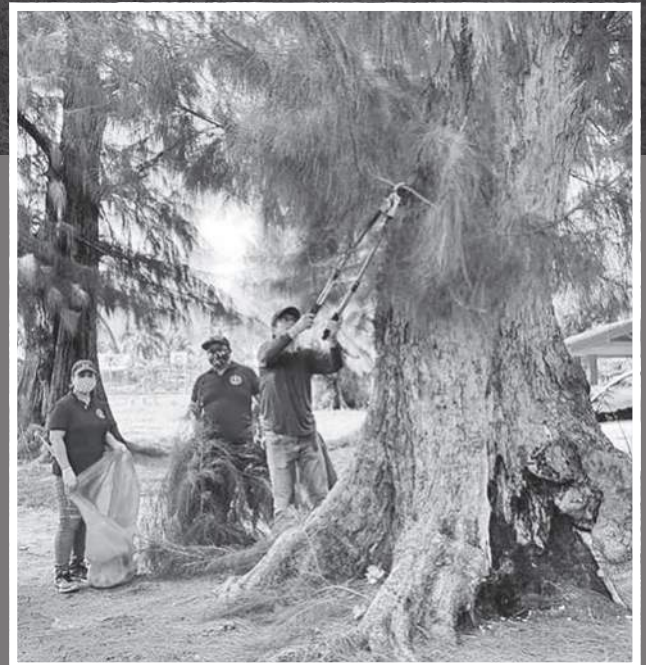
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Special Feature

Editor's Note: The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership initiative has drawn widespread support from the community. Various activities have been conducted and projects have been launched to rally behind the destination enhancement campaign. This section will provide insights on how PPP supporters are committed to the program.



TOGETHER,
WE CAN



UFO adopts San Isidro Beach Park

In creating the Public Private Partnership initiative, the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers emphasized that the destination enhancement campaign must also include areas that are often used by island residents.

With this in mind, the United Filipino Organization, which is among the non-profit groups supporting the PPP initiative, has chosen to adopt the San Isidro Beach Park in Chalan Kanoa.

UFO president Mar Masilungan said the San Isidro Beach Park is one of the most accessible sites in the southern side of Saipan and hosts big community gatherings as it has eight pavilions and a playground.

"We want to help rehabilitate a site that is frequented by many residents for their family parties, group meetings, recreational and wellness activities, and other community events. We at the UFO also use pavilions for our events so we understand the importance of having a facility that is readily available and well-maintained for the safety and convenience of its users," Masilungan said.

UFO has identified the major repairs needed for the Chalan Kanoa location, including roof/ceiling and

chairs replacement, repainting, and posts resurfacing. The playground is also no longer safe for use and UFO is recommending to have it demolished and replaced with a new one.

Masilungan said UFO is coordinating with GCEA to see how they will move forward with the rehabilitation plan for the beach park. UFO is also working with the nine groups under its fold to schedule regular cleanup drives at the site while waiting to proceed with its major improvement project.

Last month, representatives from Akap Pinoy, Bayani Association, Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers & Architects, MDX Amateur Radio Club, Marianas Institute of Filipino CPA's and Accountants, Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, Saipan Building and Fixing Computer User's Group, Sto. Nino Group, and Tau Gamma Phi/Sigma trimmed loose tree branches at the beach park, cleared the ground, and picked up trash along the shore and surrounding areas. Masilungan said UFO members will be doing cleanup drives at the site every month.

Taking care of the San Isidro Beach Park is just one of the many activities UFO has consistently engaged in to provide service to the community. The group, for more than 20 years, has been involved in disaster relief operations, sports, health, and wellness promotions, cultural, educational, and entertainment activities, and livelihood projects. (PR)

Business

Bonnie's Kitchen Texas-style BBQ is now open

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Bonnie's Kitchen located along Beach Road is your new go-to-place to satisfy that true Texas-style barbecue craving. Equipped with meat smokers, thongs, tasty marinade, best choice cuts of meat, and the right kind of restaurant ambiance, owners Park Jung Jae and Bonnie Kim will surely delight your taste buds and will make you say "Howdy!"

"We opened three weeks ago... we used to own a dive shop right at this location but since no tourists are coming due to the pandemic, we have to make a decision to change our business. We studied the market and we know that local people love barbeque and we pushed it further by doing it Texas-style since there is nothing like it on island yet," Park said.

"Honestly, I did not know anything about Texas-style barbeque. I only had perseverance and the commitment to learn. For many weeks, I studied the art of Texas-style barbeque through YouTube and cookbooks. There was a lot of trial and error for sure but it was a learning process and when we were ready, we opened Bonnie's Kitchen," Park added.

Park said that the process to achieve the true Texas-style taste is not easy. "The



Bonnie's Kitchen's husband-and-wife team of Jung Jae Park and Bonnie Kim.

difference between regular barbeque and Texas-style is that the first has a simple process—put meat over charcoal and cover it until it's grilled. Texas-style is a special process wherein I start at 5am to

prepare the meat, then steam and roast the meat many times until it's perfect."

"Texas-style takes over five hours to prepare the meat and steaming the meat is an important part of it so the meat does not get

For more information or for advance orders, call 287-8225.



Bonnie's Kitchen is located along Beach Road beside Dong Boo Store.

BEA CABRERA

dry... Our portion is very filling and every order is complimented with our savory side dishes like pasta and coleslaw," he added.

Their specialties include Bonnie's Meats Plate-Smoked BBQ Pulled Pork, Smoked BBQ Ribs, and the third is a combo of the two that comes with side dishes eaten with a bun, rice, or French fries and all are below \$14. They also have smoked sandwiches, fried chicken, Korean BBQ, and assorted choices for the sides.

The Smoked BBQ Ribs definitely had fall-off-the-bone goodness and marinated in a sweet and spicy sauce partnered with plain rice that gets heightened with the tang from the coleslaw. The pulled pork was outstanding and one of the best on island. Lastly, the chicken barbeque was

delicious as it was juicy and tasty. Get the table facing the ocean and let it complete your special Texas-style barbecue adventure.

Bonnie's Kitchen accepts special orders of smoked chicken and BBQ spare ribs

just give them two hours advance notice. They serve barbecue sandwiches only from 9am to 11am, lunch from 11am to 3pm, and dinner from 5pm to 8pm. For more information or for advance orders, call 287-8225.



BEA CABRERA

Bonnie's Kitchen's specialty is Texas-style pulled pork.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB OPENING: SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER
EUCON International School

Duties: Provides instruction at the Secondary School level in the following classes: Fundamental Math, Algebra I and Geometry; creates lesson plans; evaluates student performance and provides feedback; communicates students' progress to parents; develops and updates curriculum for the classroom; maintains accurate records of students' progress; keeps order in the classroom; posts grades and sends grade reports to parents; performs other teaching-related duties.

Other requirements: Baccalaureate degree in liberal arts, stem-science, or engineering; ability to communicate and interact with students and parents; ability to encourage and motivate students; basic computer and microsoft software skills; Chinese language skills preferred, as school instructs both native English and Chinese speaking students.

JOB OPENING: ACCOUNTING CLERK
EUCON International School

Duties: The Accounting Clerk, receiving general guidance from the school's Finance Manager, performs general bookkeeping duties, including checking, computation, classifying and recording data to keep financial records; establishes and maintains chart of accounts and subsidiary accounts, allocating, and posting transactions; performs other bookkeeping and accounting assistance tasks.

Other requirements: Must have a high school diploma/GED with at least 12 months of progressive work experience in the accounting clerk field with basic accounting and clerical skills and knowledge. Skill in Microsoft and Quickbooks software, math and English, and operating computer.

Work Location: Eucon International School, Kulales Place,
Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai
Mail Address: P.O. Box 500087, Saipan, MP 98950
E-Mail address: hr@eucon.edu

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www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of November 20, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Saipan Sunset Cruise	11/12/2020 SPIm-2021-005	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 11/12/2020
2. Department of Public Works	11/06/2020 SMS-2016-X-088	Route 33 (Beach Road), Phase I & II	Beach Road, Saipan	Major Siting	Certified Complete* 11/06/2020
3. National Park Service	11/17/2020 SPI-2020-X-050-A1	One Additional Borehole	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review
4. P&A Corporation	10/30/2020 SMS-96-X-020-A1	Winners Multi-Commercial Facilities	San Antonio, Saipan	Major Siting Amendment	Certified Complete 11/06/2020
5. Success International Corporation	05/19/2020 SMS-2020-X-048	New Hope Quarry Operation	As Matuis, Saipan	Major Siting	Certified Complete* 10/23/2020

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Nation

Biden approaches 80M votes in historic victory

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President-elect Joe Biden's winning tally is approaching a record 80 million votes as Democratic bastions continue to count ballots and the 2020 election cracks turnout records.

Biden has already set a record for the highest number of votes for a winning presidential candidate, and President Donald Trump has also notched a high-water mark of the most votes for a losing candidate. With more than 155 million votes counted and California and New York still counting, turnout stands at 65% of all eligible voters, the highest since 1908, according to data from The Associated Press and the U.S. Elections Project.

The rising Biden tally and his popular vote lead—nearly 6 million votes—come as Trump has escalated his false insistence that he actually won the election, and his campaign and supporters intensify their uphill legal fight to stop or delay results from being certified, potentially nullify the votes of Americans.

"It's just a lot of noise going on, because Donald Trump is a bull who carries his own china shop with him," said Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian at Rice University. "Once the noise recedes, it's going to be clear that Biden won a very convincing victory."

Biden currently has an Electoral College lead of 290-232. But that does not include

Catholics divided as bishops examine Biden's abortion stance

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Catholics split almost evenly in supporting Donald Trump or Joe Biden in the presidential election. Now they're sharply divided over a declaration by the head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that the president-elect's support for abortion rights presents the church with a "difficult and complex situation."

The USCCB's president, Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez, made that statement Tuesday near the close of the conference's national meeting and announced the formation of a working group of bishops to assess the dilemma. Some experts said it's possible the group will discuss whether Biden — a practicing Roman Catholic — should be barred from partaking in Holy Communion.



President-elect Joe Biden, accompanied by Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, speaks about economic recovery at The Queen theater, Monday, Nov. 16, 2020, in Wilmington, Del.

electors from Georgia, where Biden leads Trump by 0.3 percentage points as officials conduct a hand tally. The AP has not called the race, but if Biden's lead holds he will win the Electoral College on 306-232 vote—the identical margin Trump won in 2016. Back then Trump described it as a "landslide."

Trump sealed that victory with 77,000 votes across three battleground states, while Biden's margin would be slightly narrower—about

45,000 votes across Arizona, Georgia and Wisconsin.

That slimmer win, however, is still decisive by election law standards, notes Rick Hasen, a professor at the University of Irvine and an expert on voting.

While Biden's margins in states like Arizona and Wisconsin seem small—between 12,000 and 20,000 votes—those races aren't nearly narrow enough to be considered likely to flip through a recount or lawsuits. Recounts typically shift total votes by only a few hun-

Catholic anti-abortion activists hope the bishops follow through with tough words and action, making clear that Catholic politicians who support abortion are in breach of church teaching.

Biden's policy agenda "is incompatible with the Catholic position on abortion and the protection of innocent human life," said Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, a leading anti-abortion group.

But others criticized the USCCB as setting the stage for potential conflict with the president-elect just days after he received a congratulatory call from Pope Francis. Biden said he hopes to work with the pontiff on issues such as climate change, poverty and immigration.

"The USCCB leadership simply can't embrace the idea of engagement and goodwill

that Pope Francis has asked of them," said David Gibson, director of Fordham University's Center on Religion and Culture. "That the pope called to congratulate Biden and discussed working together while the American bishops capped their meeting with plans to do battle with the incoming president says it all."

Natalia Imperatori-Lee, a professor of religious studies at Manhattan College, also was dismayed by the USCCB.

"It seems they'd like to start an antagonistic relationship with only the second Catholic to be elected the president of this country," she said via email. "This is appalling."

"The bishops have chosen to continue the culture war that uses abortion to drive wedges in our church and our society, because they see that as a winning issue for them," she wrote.

dred votes. In 2000, the Florida recount and legal battle for the White House was prompted by a 537-vote margin.

"If you're talking about it being close enough to be within what those of us in the field call the margin of litigation, this is not within the margin of litigation," Hasen said.

Timothy Naftali, a presidential historian at New York University, has compared Biden's

still-growing popular vote and Electoral College margins to those of every winner of a presidential election since 1960. His finding: Biden's win was right in the middle—tighter than landslides like Barack Obama's 2008 win or Ronald Reagan's 1984 wipe-out reelection, but broader than Trump's 2016 victory or either of George W. Bush's two wins.

GOP increasingly accepts Trump's defeat—but not in public

WASHINGTON (AP)—When Kamala Harris returned to the Senate this week for the first time as vice president-elect, her Republican colleagues offered their congratulations and Sen. Lindsey Graham greeted her with a fist bump.

It was a sign that many Republicans have privately acknowledged what they refuse to say openly: Democrat Joe Biden and Harris won the election and will take office in January.

The GOP's public silence on the reality of Biden's victory amounts to tacit approval of Trump's baseless claims of election fraud. That has significant repercussions, delaying the transition during a deadly pandemic, sowing public doubt and endangering Biden's ability to lead the portion of the country that may question his legitimacy.

"The real-world consequences are perilous," said Eddie Glaude, chair of the De-

partment of African American studies at Princeton University. "The long-term implications are calcifying the doubt about the election and what that means for the body politic. It could lead to half the country not just being deeply suspicious of the democratic process but also actively hostile toward it. It becomes difficult to imagine how we move forward."

Republicans are closing the Trump era much the way they started it: by joining the president in shattering civic norms and sowing uncertainty in institutions. But their efforts to maintain a public face of support for the president began to deteriorate on Wednesday.

Backroom whispers about the futility of Trump's legal fight have become louder after Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani appeared in a Pennsylvania courtroom making wide and unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud in seeking to undo the

The closest analogy was Obama's reelection, which he won by virtually the same margin as Biden has now.

"Did anyone think 2012 was a narrow victory? No," Naftali said.

Despite that, Trump and his allies are continuing to try to stop certification of the election, in a longshot attempt to deny states the ability to seat electors supporting Biden. These efforts are very unlikely to succeed, but they reached a new pitch this week when two Republican members of the board of canvassers in Michigan's largest county Tuesday night managed to block certification of the votes there. They allowed certification to proceed after an outcry, but it was a sign of how deeply Trump's baseless claims of mass fraud have permeated.

In fact, argued Michael McDonald, a University of Florida professor who tracks vote counts for the U.S. Elections Project, the relatively narrow Biden wins in battleground states tell a different story than the one the president is pushing.

Democrats have worried that the gap between the popular vote and the Electoral College tallies is growing as Democratic voters cluster on the coasts and outside of battleground states. That dynamic could make it difficult for Democrats to win congressional races, creating a lasting disadvantage when it comes to advancing policies.

election results. Asked about the case, Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., said, "Let me just say, I don't think they have a strong case."

And when White House chief of staff Mark Meadows visited with Senate Republicans, he encouraged them to "make the most" of their remaining time with Trump, according to two senators.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said the message from Meadows was "basically just that we got about 45 days left of the president's term." Meadows told them the administration wanted to make sure that if the senators "had ideas of things that the White House could and should do during that period of time, that we got them to him."

But even then, there remained a glimmer of denial.

"But he did, I have to be honest with you, he did say whether it's 45 days or four years and 45 days," Cornyn added.

Asia

Asia Today: S. Korea sees biggest jump in cases since August

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has recorded its largest daily increase in coronavirus infections in nearly three months as it gets set to tighten social distancing rules in the greater Seoul area.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency reported 313 new cases on Wednesday, raising the country's total to 29,311, including 496 deaths.

It's the first time the country's daily caseload exceeded 300 since late August.

South Korea is struggling to contain a spike in new infections since it eased its stringent social distancing rules last month. The new cases are tied to hospitals, nursing homes, churches, schools, offices and family gatherings.

Local health authorities said Tuesday that they would tighten distancing restrictions in the densely populated Seoul area and some parts of eastern Gangwon province. Those areas are at the center of the recent spikes.

Under the new rules, which come into effect Thursday for two weeks in those areas, gatherings of more than 100 people during rallies, festivals and concerts will be prohibited. They will also require people to sit at least one seat apart from each other in theaters, concert halls and libraries while limiting audiences at sporting events to 30% of the stadium's capacity.

In other developments in

the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Authorities in Tokyo have announced nearly 500 new cases of the coronavirus, the biggest daily increase in the Japanese capital since the pandemic began, amid a nationwide spike in infections and as the country discusses with Olympic officials how to safely host next summer's games. The Tokyo metropolitan government reported 493 new cases on Wednesday, surpassing the city's previous high of 472 recorded on Aug. 1, during the peak of Japan's earlier wave of infections. The record number of new cases came as International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach ended his visit to Japan to discuss with Japanese Olympic officials how to safely host the games, which were postponed until next July due to the pandemic. Japan has seen a steady climb in new cases nationwide in recent weeks, and experts have urged officials to step up preventive measures. Japan has confirmed 120,815 cases overall, including 1,913 deaths, according to the health ministry.

■ The Australian state that includes the city of Adelaide will go into a six-day lockdown starting at midnight Wednesday, with schools, universities, bars and cafes closed. Only one person from each household in South Australia will be allowed to leave home each day, and

only for specific reasons. Officials announced the move on Wednesday after a cluster of new cases grew to 22. State Premier Steven Marshall says he believes the lockdown will act as a "circuit-breaker" and reduce the risk of the outbreak spreading further. Health authorities say they believe a worker at an Adelaide hotel where people arriving from abroad are being

quarantined caught the virus and then infected other family members. The restrictions also require most factories to close, aged-care facilities to go into lockdown, and weddings and funerals to be put on hold. Outdoor exercise will be banned, and wearing masks will be mandatory.

■ China reported one new local coronavirus infection on Wednesday as the country

increasingly focuses on the possibility the virus might be spread on frozen food packaging. The National Health Commission said the new case was detected in the northern port city of Tianjin just east of Beijing. The confirmed case, along with another person who tested positive without showing symptoms, were both previously quarantined under suspicion of having the virus. Another

seven cases were brought from outside the country, the commission reported, raising China's total to 86,369 with 4,634 deaths since the virus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year. Authorities in several cities and provinces have reported detecting the virus on packaging of frozen seafood and meat imported from countries ranging from Germany to India.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC RFP 2021-003

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: December 4, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

**Lease of Office Space for the
Community Development Block Grant
Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program**

The Request for Proposal and Scope of Work will be available on November 20, 2020 at the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing or email to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net or submitted by facsimile to (670)234-9021 no later than 10:00 AM local time on November 25, 2020.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

/s/ **Frank Lee Borja**
Acting Chairman
NMHC Board of Directors



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-004

SUBMISSION DATE: December 29, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"Route 36 (Windward/Chalan Kalabera)
Road Improvements, Phase II, Saipan"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 24, 2020, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 16, 2020** to **Ms. Lorraine M. Segan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **JAMES A. ADA**
SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICE



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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**DESIGN/BUILD FOR THE SEAPORT MARINA IMPROVEMENTS
TINIAN HARBOR
CPA PROJECT NO. CPA-TS-001-20
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for the design and construction of improvements to the seaport marina at the Tinian Harbor. The work shall include all design, materials, labor, equipment and construction services necessary to achieve a finished product, including but not limited to the items in the scope of work and those shown on the layout provided in the proposal package.

The Scope of Work (SOW) outlining the project's general requirements may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and costs must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on **Friday, November 20, 2020 at 10:00 am** at the CPA Tinian Seaport Office at the Tinian Harbor to discuss the project scope of work in detail. A site inspection will immediately follow the pre-proposal conference. Attendance at this conference is not mandatory.


Questions shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport, or via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or cpa.engr@pticom.com by no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 27, 2020. All responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who have picked up a proposal package.

Proposers are requested to submit one original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Design/Build for Seaport Marina Improvement, Tinian Harbor, Tinian, CPA-TS-001-20". Proposals must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

Date: October 23, 2020



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AGENDA

***** November 24, 2020 *****

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Main Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. However, pursuant to Governor Torres' Executive Orders and Directives on the ongoing threat from the Covid-19 pandemic and the limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via videoconference.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

- I. PRELIMINARIES:**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes, October 21, 2020
- II. REPORTS:**
 - A. Report by the Chairman
 - B. Report by the Acting Executive Director
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**
 - A. Casino Licensee — Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") — Updates:
 1. Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel ("IPR"). Update on the construction project
 2. IPI Personnel:
 - a) Organizational Chart Update
 - b) Resident Employment Objectives
 - c) Status of Employee Payroll
 - d) Status of Employee Housing
 3. IPI Financial Matters.
 - a) Annual Casino License Fee
 - b) Annual Casino Regulatory Fee
 - B. Other Miscellaneous Matters;
 1. Update from CHCC Bureau of Environmental Health on IPI housing sanitary inspections
 2. Update from Department of Public Works on status of the IPI construction Work Stoppage Order
- V. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. Update on House Bill No. 21-11, HS1, SD1, SD3
 - B. Other Old Business Matters
- VI. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. Consideration of Commission Order No.: 2020-005, Order Temporarily Suspending/Adjusting Minimum Bankroll Requirement and Suspending Commission Order No. 2019-002.
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
 - A. Report by Legal Counsel.
 - B. Report by the CCC Audit and Compliance Division.
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission reserves the right to amend this Agenda and take action on the amended Agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary. For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via the video conference, please contact the Commission at info@cnmicasinocommission.com for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.

/s/ **Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero**
Chairman

World

Europe has half of world's 4M new virus cases but sees hope

GENEVA (AP)—Europe made up almost half of the world's 4 million new coronavirus cases last week but recorded a nearly 10% fall in infections compared to the week before, thanks in part to strict government lockdown measures that have fanned some discontent, the World Health Organization reported Wednesday.

In the German capital of Berlin, violent clashes between those protesting coronavirus restrictions and police erupted Wednesday near the city center after protesters disregarded police advice to wear masks and social distance.

The latest weekly tally from the U.N. health agency found its 54-nation European region continued to report most new cases of any region worldwide—46%—but its decline in cases followed “the strengthening of public health and social measures.” But as new cases fell, the tally of virus deaths still rose “substantially” in Europe over the last week to more than 29,000 new deaths, WHO said.

WHO's Americas region saw a 41% increase in new cases, suggesting that a higher weekly death toll could soon follow there. Southeast Asia was the only region that saw a drop in cases and deaths.

In Europe, WHO said the sharpest rise in coronavirus cases was in Austria, which saw a 30% increase in new cases compared to the previous week. WHO also noted the U.K. was the first country in the region to record more than 50,000 deaths.

Pockets of Western Europe have shown signs of turning



A medical operator prepares to perform COVID-19 test swabs in the Church of San Severo Outside the Walls, in the heart of Naples, Italy, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020. AP

a corner, particularly in the lowlands near the English Channel.

Belgium said Wednesday it had taken a major step in containing the resurgence of the coronavirus, reporting a drop in the daily death count for the first time since the latest COVID-19 wave hit this autumn.

Virologist Steven Van Gucht, from the government's Sciensano health group, said Belgium's daily average of virus deaths now stood at 185, a 5% decrease compared to the average a week ago. Over the last week, the daily average of hospital admissions dropped 24% and new infections fell 39%.

Officials in the Netherlands,

to the north, were easing coronavirus restrictions amid falling infection rates, and were poised to reopen venues like cinemas, museums, libraries, zoos and swimming pools—still with limitations on how many people can visit—after a two-week closure.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte hailed a “positive” downward trend but said case counts were still too high. He warned the country to remain on a partial lockdown. In mid-October, Dutch rates of infection were among the worst in Europe.

Switzerland, which has registered some of the highest transmission rates in the world in recent weeks, on Wednesday

stepped up government support to help people affected by the virus and by lockdown measures—including a extra 1 billion Swiss francs in state aid—even as case counts eased back from recent peaks.

The Alpine country counted over 6,000 new cases over the last day, down from a peak of more than 10,000 daily cases in October. Economic Affairs Minister Guy Parmelin cited a “more optimistic horizon” in Switzerland on Wednesday.

Regional officials in Geneva noted a “plateau” in positive COVID-19 tests in recent days and on Wednesday eased some restrictions on hairdressers, tattoo parlors,

therapists and personal trainers, among others.

Meanwhile, some people in Germany were growing increasingly restive about the prospect of increased lockdown measures.

In Berlin, police fired water cannons Wednesday at demonstrators and carried away some who were protesting coronavirus restrictions near the famed Brandenburg Gate and the seat of the federal government. The melee erupted after crowds ignored calls to wear masks and keep their distance from one another in line with pandemic rules.

It came as German lawmakers were debating a bill that could provide the legal groundwork for the government to issue social distancing rules, require masks in public and close stores and other venues to slow the spread of the virus. Most people in Germany support such rules, but a vocal minority has staged regular rallies arguing that the restrictions violate the constitution.

“We want our lives back,” read one sign carried by protesters in Berlin.

US withdrawal rattles Afghan allies and adversaries alike

ISLAMABAD (AP)—An accelerated U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, announced by Washington this week, has rattled both allies and adversaries. There are fears of worsening violence and regional chaos, which some say could embolden the local Islamic State affiliate to regroup and perhaps even try to build another “caliphate.”

Under an earlier deal between the U.S. and the Taliban that outlined a gradual pullout, the remaining U.S. forces were to leave Afghanistan by April. The Pentagon now says some 2,500 troops will leave by January, just days before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, leaving another 2,000 or so U.S. forces in place. Biden has said he prefers a small, intelligence-driven, counterterrorism presence in Afghanistan.

A U.S. withdrawal would be welcome in most of rural Afghanistan where civilians are increasingly caught in the crossfire between Taliban and government forces, said Torek Farhadi, a former Afghan government adviser and political analyst.

“After a bombing by any side of the conflict, no one has gone back to rebuild any infrastructure. No one has really worked on healing hearts and minds,” he said.

The U.S.-Taliban deal, signed in February, was largely propelled by Washington's fear of an expanding Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan, said a U.S. Defense Department official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

With terrorist plots that he said had links to Afghanistan, Washington sought a deal with the Taliban that would bring them into a coordinated fight—along with Afghan security forces—against the Islamic State militant group, which lost its self-proclaimed “caliphate” in Syria and Iraq.

A U.S.-led coalition toppled the Taliban in Afghanistan for harboring former al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The Taliban has regained strength in recent years in the country, although the Islamic State and a degraded al-Qaida still carry out attacks in the region.

Bahrain FM visits Israel in latest sign of warming ties

JERUSALEM (AP)—Bahrain's foreign minister paid a history-making visit to Israel on Wednesday, in the latest sign of warming ties following a series of U.S.-brokered normalization accords between Israel and Arab nations.

Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani flew into Tel Aviv on a Gulf Air passenger plane, making him the first Bahraini minister to make an official visit to Israel. He held a series of meetings with top officials, capped by joint talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the visiting U.S. secretary of state, Mike Pompeo.

At a joint news conference, all three men warmly praised the “Abraham Accords,” the U.S.-brokered agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan.

Netanyahu called the visit a “milestone,” while Pompeo said the accords sent a message to Iran and its allies that “their influence in the region is waning and they are ever more isolated.”

Alzayani said his country's agreement with Israel, signed at the White House in September and cemented by a visit last month by an Israeli delegation, would lead to cooperation in areas like trade and education, and direct flights and the opening of embassies in the near future.

“It has been obvious the intention and keenness of all sides is to ensure that the peace we are pursuing will be a warm peace that will deliver clear benefits to our people,” Alzayani said.

He also said he hoped the agreement would help pave

the way for peace throughout the region.

But, he said, “in order to achieve and consolidate such a peace, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict needs to be resolved. I therefore call for both parties to get around the negotiating table, to achieve a viable two-state solution, as is also sought by the international community.”

The Palestinians have condemned Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates for reaching agreements with Israel, accusing them of weakening the traditional Arab consensus that normalized ties could not take place without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Despite Alzayani's mention of the Palestinians, neither Bahrain nor the UAE has given any indication it plans on

pushing the issue with Israel.

The Palestinians severed ties with the Trump administration after it recognized contested Jerusalem as Israel's capital three years ago, and they have rejected Trump's Mideast plan, saying it unfairly favors Israel. The Palestinians have welcomed the election of President-elect Joe Biden and expressed hope the incoming administration will take a more evenhanded approach.

Earlier, Alzayani was welcomed on the tarmac by his Israeli counterpart, Gabi Ashkenazi, and other U.S. and Israeli officials. Everyone wore masks and tapped elbows in greeting due to concerns about the coronavirus.

He invited Ashkenazi to attend next month's Manama Dialogue, an annual security conference held in Bahrain's capital.

Off The Wall

Nude man arrested after driving into grocery store

COLUMBIA FALLS, Mont. (AP)—A man who crashed his car into a Montana grocery store and fled the scene was later arrested after running nude through a nearby retire-

ment home, police said.

The suspect was transported to a local hospital for non-injury medical issues on Thursday and is expected to be booked after he is medically cleared.

Columbia Falls Police Chief Clint Peters said his department will identify the suspect when he is booked into jail. Peters said he expects the man will face numerous charges, the Daily Inter Lake reported.

Witnesses described the driver as approximately 40 to 50 years old with dark hair and a mustache or beard.

The man is accused of driving through the front doors of a Super 1 Foods in Columbia Falls Thurs-

day night and continuing to drive through the store before turning around and driving out the way he had entered, police said.

No one was injured in the grocery store. The front doors were destroyed, and cans of Pepsi were scattered around the entrance.

"I had just walked through the side doors when he crashed through the front doors," witness Natasha Woolworth said. "He went through the store

and someone said he chased a guy down an aisle. It was very scary and just awful."

The driver had fled the scene by the time authorities arrived.

The suspect's vehicle, a white 1995 Chevrolet Lumina, was later found crashed into a trailer across the highway. The driver fled the scene on foot.

Shortly after discovering the vehicle, police received a report of a nude male running down the hallway of a retirement home

that was adjacent to the abandoned vehicle. Officers found the man about one block west of the home and detained him.

Employees at the retirement home said they were able to identify the man and said that he had a relationship with a resident. It was determined after a short investigation that the nude male was the driver of the vehicle that crashed through the Super 1 Foods, police said.

Man is charged with stealing a downed light pole for scrap metal



AP

In this photo provided by the Florida Highway Patrol a downed power pole is strapped to the roof of a car, Monday, Nov. 16, 2020, on Interstate 4, in Hillsborough County, Fla.

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man has learned the hard way that a downed light pole isn't trash that can be taken and sold for scrap, authorities say.

A state trooper pulled over a maroon Toyota Camry with a metal pole—longer than the car itself—strapped to the roof on a Tampa road Monday, according to a Florida Highway Patrol report. Another driver had called police earlier and reported spotting someone loading the light pole onto the car several miles (kilometers) away on Interstate 4 near the

Interstate 75 interchange.

The car's driver, Douglas Allen Hatley, told troopers that he had found the pole on the ground by the side of the highway and had planned to sell the metal for scrap, according to the report. The 71-year-old Lakeland man said he didn't realize that it was illegal to remove broken utility and light poles from the side of the road.

Hatley was arrested and charged with grand theft. He was being held on \$2,000 bond. Jail records didn't list an attorney who could comment on the case.

Dog's journey across Canada border

FORT KENT, Maine (AP)—A lost dog's journey across the Canadian border and back was complicated by coronavirus restrictions limiting movement from a town on one side of the St. John River to a Maine town on the other.

Diamond, a German shepherd, escaped from her home in New Brunswick on Saturday and crossed a border bridge into Fort Kent, Maine, where coronavirus restrictions

prevented her caretakers from following, the Bangor Daily News reported.

The owner, Paryse Michaud, was at her daughter's hockey tournament several hours away when she got the news that the 17-month-old shepherd had escaped from their home in Clair, New Brunswick. Michaud's father was looking after the dog when she escaped, the newspaper reported.

Stolen Bigfoot statue found along road

SCOTTS VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — Police officers in the mountains north of Santa Cruz responded to a suspicious figure in a roadway early Thursday and found Bigfoot.

"He was a little banged up but will be returned to his rightful place at the Bigfoot Discovery Museum," the Scotts Valley Police Department said in a Facebook post.

The Santa Cruz County

Sheriff's Office had urged people to keep their eyes peeled for the 4-foot-tall (1.2 meters) wooden statue after it was stolen from outside the tiny museum in nearby Felton on Monday.

The museum dedicated to the mythical forest creature is outside Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. It is temporarily closed due to COVID-19.

TAGA *plus* is now online!



The CNMI's premier sports, business, and lifestyle magazine is now available on
<https://tagaplus.saipantribune.com/>

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Science & Technology

Sex robots: An answer for aging, lonely Americans in the age of AI?

By NICOLE BRODEUR
THE SEATTLE TIMES

Fear not the march of time. For you may be accompanied by a certain sort of clank — a sex robot to get you through your twilight years.

A University of Washington professor of bioethics and humanities has just published a paper saying that “sex robots” and artificial intelligence may be the breakthrough our ever-growing aging population needs to relieve social isolation.

“Alexa ...” Oh, never mind.

In a paper published in the Journal of Medical Ethics titled “Nothing to Be Ashamed of: Sex Robots for Older Adults with Disabilities,” Nancy Jecker of the UW’s School of Medicine connects society’s embrace of robotics, AI and senior citizens who may be living longer, thanks to medical advances, but who also suffer from physical disabilities or loneliness, especially in the time of COVID-19.

Many people in these circumstances would welcome a robot’s companionship and, yes, even its ability to provide sexual fulfillment, Jecker wrote.

“We apply ageist attitudes and negative stereotypes to older adults,” she said. “We assume they’re too old to indulge in sex and think that older adults having interest in sex is weird or dirty.”

“Designing and marketing

sex robots for older, disabled people would represent a sea change from current practice,” she continued. “The reason to do it is to support human dignity and to take seriously the claims of those whose sexuality is diminished by disability or isolation.”

The use of robots solely for sex “really misses the boat,” Jecker said, arguing that sex “is about something much deeper ... our identity and what we can

do or be as human beings.”

Disabled people can use robots not only as caregivers, but friends who don’t judge, don’t have a problem repeating themselves, speaking more slowly or listening.

“They are a friend available 24/7 who doesn’t judge and accepts a person and interacts,” Jecker said.

And in this time of COVID-19, robots can be sanitary and safe companions for

humans. They are loaded with information, can retain and recall what a human tells them and interact accordingly.

The field of “soft robotics” is creating robots that are soft and pliable, able to hold hands and touch, “and interact in a way that’s safe,” Jecker said, “especially for older people who are frail.”

Jecker called the paper a “bid” to the sex-robot industry to tap into what she considers a

new and growing market — an aging society that is living longer than ever before, but with chronic disease and disabilities that impair sexual functioning.

“Really,” she said, “There are opportunities that have been unexplored.”

Right now, she said, sex robots are “rudimentary,” pre-programmed with “girlfriend personalities.”

But Jecker believes that robots can be designed for a

broader range of clientele, including for older people who simply want companions, and, maybe, some sort of physical connection.

“It relates to issues of dignity,” she said. “The ability to be sexual at any age relates to your ability to have a life. Not just to survive, but to have a life, and do things that have value. Relationships. Bodily integrity.

“These things are a matter of dignity.”

TECH Q&A: What’s wrong when friends can’t play your shared videos

Q: I take videos in the MP4 format on my Android phone, and they play back just fine. But when I send a 20- to 60-second video to my friends’ phones (via Yahoo Mail or Facebook Messenger), the videos either won’t play or play for only five to 10 seconds. What’s wrong?

A: Either your recipients don’t have the right software to view your videos (not all MP4 files are the same), or you are trying to send too much data via Yahoo Mail and Facebook Messenger.

First, the software issue. When MP4 video files are created, they are compressed to minimize the amount of storage space they use. The files must be decompressed in order to be viewed. Android phones and iPhones support some of the different compression and decompression methods, but not all of them, which means

some MP4 videos won’t play.

The solution for your recipients is to install a video app that handles most of these methods, such as the free and widely used VLC Media Player (see tinyurl.com/k3jyx4d), available for Android, iPhone, Windows PC and Mac. (For other video-playing programs, see tinyurl.com/yxmu8fuf for Android and tinyurl.com/y6bftugd for iPhone).

Then there’s the issue of file size. MP4 videos are big files that increase in size by about 20 to 30 megabytes per minute. However, Yahoo Mail and Facebook Messenger both limit the amount of data they transmit to 25 megabytes per message. As a result, your 60-second videos (20 to 30 megabytes) may be too big to fit into a message, and even your 20-second videos may exceed the limit if you send too many at once. If you exceed the limits, the video probably won’t be sent. If it is sent, the video may be cut off when the 25-megabyte limit is reached, which means the file may not work when your recipient tries to view it.

An alternative to sending long videos is to upload them to a cloud storage service such as Dropbox or Google Drive, then “share” them with your friends by sending them a Web link. (For details, see tinyurl.com/y43xf657 for Dropbox or tinyurl.com/yyyyg3c4j for Google Drive.)

Q: Gmail used to do a terrific job of removing spam from my e-mail inbox. But recently they don’t seem to be filtering out spam as well. What’s wrong and what can I do about it?

A: There could be a couple of reasons you have noticed more spam in Gmail this year.

One is that Gmail had a technical problem in July that slowed the receiving and sending of mail.

That in turn caused mail-screening problems that resulted in extra spam and promotional e-mail being delivered to inboxes. Gmail said soon afterward that

the problem had been fixed.

Another reason you might be getting more spam is a phenomenon known as “spam bombing.” This is an attempt to overload your inbox with messages in the hope that you’ll miss important alerts, such as one notifying you that a financial account has been compromised.

In addition, some spam senders may have just acquired your e-mail address for the first time.

Spammers expand their e-mail lists by searching

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



websites for addresses, trying commonly used account names, tricking people into giving out addresses and buying e-mail lists.

About the only thing you can do is designate unwanted messages as spam and hope Gmail filters them out next time.

Science Matters

Growing an anti-viral antibody

Lab-grown proteins called **monoclonal antibodies** are used to block a virus from entering human cells — a disease-fighting method used when no vaccine to the virus exists.

Antigen: A foreign material that contacts or enters the body

An antibody is a four-armed protein that attaches to a specific antigen with **binding sites** precisely shaped to fit the antigen

Antibodies: Body’s defense against invaders

Vertebrate animals* have evolved “**adaptive immune systems**” that learn to identify foreign proteins and neutralize them with antibodies

* Except non-jawed fish (lampreys etc.)

The five types of human antibodies are called A, D, E, G and M

Human **B-lymphocyte** white blood cells (B-cells) produce about 10 billion different antibodies, each can bind to a specific antigen

Antibodies combat microbes, cancer cells and toxins such as insect venom

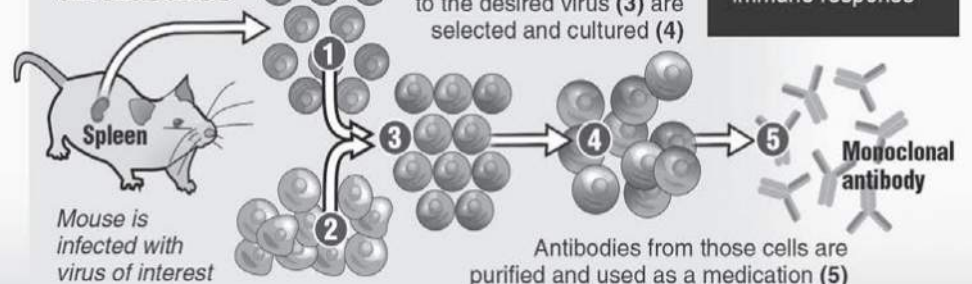


Medical uses of antibodies

Injects of gamma globulin antibody, used since the 1950s to prevent viral infections

An antibody test indicates whether a person has been exposed to a virus such as HIV or coronavirus and mounted an immune response

Monoclonal antibodies



Source: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

† *Isabel Villagomez Camacho*

We the family of the late †Isabel V. Camacho would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the 1st death Anniversary of our beloved's passing into eternal life.

The following mass will be offered at San Jose church at 6:00pm from November 19 to November 27, 2020. On November 22, 2020 mass will be offered at 7:00am and on Thanksgiving, November 26, 2020 mass will be offered at 8:00am.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated

Thank you
Francisco A. Camacho and family

Life & Style

People magazine names **Michael B. Jordan** as **Sexiest Man Alive**

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Michael B. Jordan has been crowned as 2020's Sexiest Man Alive by People magazine.

Jordan, known for his critically-acclaimed performances in "Fruitvale Station," "Creed" and "Black Panther," was revealed as this year's winner Tuesday night on

ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"

The actor appeared on the late-night talk show dressed in a yellow biohazard suit. He revealed his identity after removing his helmet, which had a smiley face. He said he learned about the hon-



Jordan

or during a call from his publicist while driving with a friend.

Jordan tells the magazine in an issue out Friday that the honor is a "cool feeling."

"You know, everybody always made that joke, like, 'Mike, this is the one thing you're

probably not going to get,'" he said. "But it's a good club to be a part of."

Other recent winners include John Legend, Dwayne Johnson, Chris Hemsworth, Idris Elba, Adam Levine, Channing Tatum and David Beckham.

The 33-year-old Jordan said the women in his family are "definitely proud of this one." He credits his entire family for supporting him throughout the years.

"When my grandmother

was alive, it was something that she collected, and then my mom naturally reads it a lot and my aunts as well," Jordan said. "This is one that they're definitely going to have a special place for."

Jordan's steady rise has come through strong performances on television on series "The Wire" and "Friday Night Lights." He made his mark in film as police shooting victim Oscar Grant in "Fruitvale Station," boxer Adonis Creed in

the "Rocky" sequels "Creed" and "Creed II" along with his stellar work as Erik Killmonger in the record-breaking "Black Panther."

Along with his acting endeavors, Jordan has championed change behind the scenes in Hollywood. He started his own production company, Outlier Society Productions, which was among the first to embrace the inclusion rider, adopting the pledge to seek diverse casts and crews.

Tory Lanez pleads not guilty in Megan Thee Stallion shooting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper Tory Lanez pleaded not guilty through his attorney Wednesday to felony assault charges in the July shooting of hip-hop star Megan Thee Stallion.

Lawyer Shawn Chapman Holley entered the plea in a downtown Los Angeles courtroom to counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm and carrying a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle on behalf of Lanez, 28, who was

not at the hearing.

Lanez was told to return for a hearing Jan. 20 and an order keeping him from making any kind of contact with Megan Thee Stallion was extended.

In a criminal complaint, prosecutors said Lanez, whose legal name is Daystar Peterson, fired on a victim identified as "Megan P." after she got out of an SUV during an argument in the Hollywood Hills on July 12, and "inflicted great bodily injury"

on her. Megan Thee Stallion's legal name is Megan Pete. If convicted, Lanez faces a maximum sentence of roughly 23 years.

The Canadian rapper was charged in October after months of speculation and publicity surrounding the incident. At first, Los Angeles police reported the incident only as shots fired, a woman with foot injuries, and a man arrested on a weapons allegation.

Dolly Parton adds pandemic hero to list of accomplishments

BOSTON (AP)—Dolly Parton is being celebrated in song—a rewritten version of her own "Jolene"—for her contribution to an experimental coronavirus vaccine.

Northeastern University associate English professor Ryan Cordell posted a video on Twitter of himself performing a tweaked version of Parton's signature song, renamed "Vaccine," that has drawn tens of thousands of views.

The lyrics, "Vaccine, vac-

cine, vaccine, vaccine / I'm begging of you, please go in my arm / Vaccine, vaccine, vaccine, vaccine / Please just keep me safe from COVID harm," were written by linguist and author Gretchen McCulloch, who posted them online and invited people to record them.

"I love that song. I love Dolly Parton. And I don't know—I was inspired," Cordell told The Boston Globe on Tuesday. "So I went and grabbed

my guitar."

Parton's \$1 million gift to Nashville's Vanderbilt University Medical Center helped researchers develop Moderna's experimental coronavirus vaccine, announced this week.

Cordell grew up with Parton's music, thanks to his parents and grandparents, and he called Parton's appearance at the 2019 Newport Folk Festival as one of his "favorite musical memories."

Barack Obama memoir off to record-setting start in sales

NEW YORK (AP)—Former President Barack Obama's "A Promised Land" sold nearly 890,000 copies in the U.S. and Canada in its first 24 hours, putting it on track to be the best selling presidential memoir in modern history.

The first-day sales, a record for Penguin Random House, includes pre-orders, e-books and audio.

"We are thrilled with the first day sales," said David Drake, publisher of the Penguin Random House imprint Crown. "They reflect the widespread excitement that

readers have for President Obama's highly anticipated and extraordinarily written book."

The only book by a former White House resident to come close to the early pace of "A



Obama

Promised Land" is the memoir by Obama's wife, Michelle Obama, whose "Becoming" sold 725,000 copies in North America its first day and has topped 10 million worldwide since its release in 2018. "Becoming" is still

so in demand that Crown, which publishes both Obamas and reportedly paid around \$60 million for their books, has yet to release a paperback.

As of midday Wednesday, "A Promised Land" was No. 1 on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com. James Daunt, CEO of Barnes & Noble, said that the superstore chain easily sold more than 50,000 copies its first day and hoped to reach half a million within 10 days.

Charlie Brown specials to air on TV, after all, in PBS deal

NEW YORK (AP)—The "Great Pumpkin" never showed on broadcast television this year, but after a deal with PBS, the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving and Christmas specials will return to the air.

Last month, Apple TV+ became the new home to the beloved Peanuts holiday spe-

cials. That sparked an outcry from viewers who were accustomed to annually tuning in on network TV. Apple offered each special to stream for free for a handful of days, but that didn't stop online petitions from gathering hundreds of thousands of signatures.

On Wednesday, Apple

bowed to the backlash, announcing it had teamed up with PBS for ad-free broadcasts of "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" (on Nov. 22) and "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (on Dec. 13).

Both specials will also be available for free during three-day windows on Apple TV+ (Nov. 25-27 for "Thanksgiving" and Dec. 11-13 for "Christmas.") For subscribers, the specials will be available beginning Nov. 18 and Dec. 4, respectively.

Habit of one-upmanship pushes women's friendship to the limit

DEAR ABBY: I have a good friend I'll call Josie. She's kind, generous and always willing to help. There is only one problem—she lies.

The lies she tells are ridiculous. I find myself getting more and more angry as she stumbles through her stories. If someone makes a comment, she takes over the conversation and we hear a loong story about the same thing happening to her but much worse. I could say I climbed Mount Everest and Josie would say she climbed it twice.

What can I say or do to get her to stop lying? I'm so tired of it I'm thinking of quietly ending my friendship with her.

TRUTH WINS IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TRUTH WINS: One person trying to convince her to stop probably won't do the trick. Josie won't quit lying until she finally hears it from others and realizes that it isn't achieving the desired effect, which is standing front and center in the spotlight.

Tell Josie in plain English that what she's doing is infuriating and that she's doing herself no favors. But when you do, realize it will probably be part of a farewell speech rather than an opportunity for a new beginning.

DEAR ABBY: I can't travel too far by myself because I'm agoraphobic. I'm having my house painted, and I asked my brother if he could pick up some paint because I needed more. He brought the paint to me and I reimbursed him. He then ac-

cused me of being needy and using him because I mentioned I was short on gas money for the trip.

Abby, when I ask him to do things for me, I pay him 90% of the time. I don't ask for his help often, but that time, he argued with me about gas money. Needless to say, I gave him \$20.

My brother isn't struggling financially. He has money. He's supposed to be a deacon in his church and calls himself a good Christian. He really hurt my feelings, and he said other mean things about my health issues. What should I do about this?

IN NEED IN THE EAST

DEAR IN NEED: Your brother may have been in a bad mood the day you asked him for the favor. Have you told him that he hurt your feelings? If you didn't, rather than nurse hurt feelings, clear the air. If this has happened more than once, find a "better" Christian to ask.

DEAR ABBY: This letter is for people who are involved with folks who say they are separated. If you have feelings for someone who is separated, ASK when they plan on getting divorced. If they come up with excuses like there are children involved, property disputes or they can't afford a lawyer, end the relationship immediately.

Do not start dating or sleeping with a separated person. They can easily return to their spouse, leaving you high and dry (or pregnant, if you're female). Just remain friends until they are divorced, and afterward proceed with any relationship you two desire.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Bottom line: "Separated" means STILL MARRIED. While I'm not in this situation, I have known several people who were, and they regretted it.

WORD OF WARNING IN VIRGINIA

DEAR WORD: That's pragmatic advice, and I hope readers will heed your warning. As anyone who has read my column knows, I have printed countless letters from heartbroken readers who wasted time and energy on partners who weren't free.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

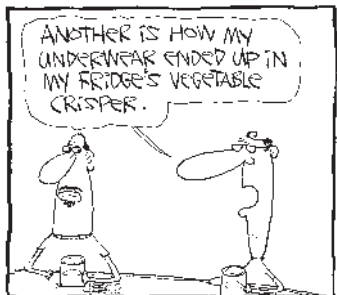
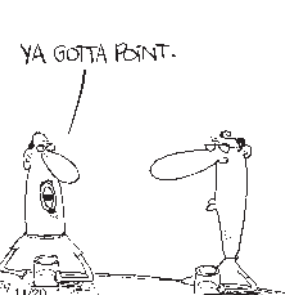
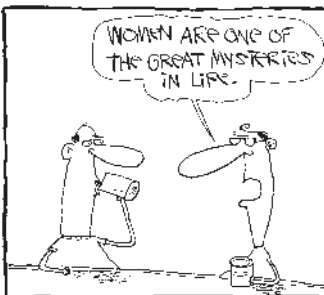


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

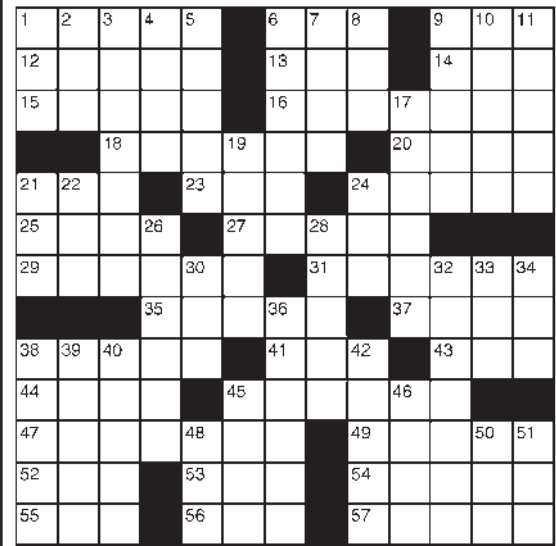
1 Taxi
6 — out a living
9 "Awe-some, dude!"
12 Florida city
13 Started
14 French pal
15 Ninnies
16 Fruit-filled dessert
18 Polar buildup
20 "— Mis-behavin'"
21 "The Matrix" hero
23 "— Kapital"
24 High hairstyles
25 Early Peruvian
27 Rich kid in "Nancy" comics
29 "Scram!"
31 Short and thick
35 D-Day beach

37 Sloth's home
38 Myanmar, once
41 Non-Rx
43 Toronto's prov.
44 Yours (Fr.)
45 "This Is Us" or "CSI"
47 Bacardi-spiked dessert
49 Sleep problem
52 Before
53 Texter's guffaw
54 Jockey's handful
55 — -Cat
56 Twisty letter

57 Winter coasters
11 Losing ventures?
17 Plan in detail
19 Magna —
21 Pen tip
22 Away from WSW
24 Last (Abbr.)
26 Kind of clock
28 Exams for future attys.
30 "— Little Teapot"
32 Goopy dessert
33 Oscar winner
34 Still
36 Shacks
38 Exposes reversal
40 Juliet's beau
42 Scorches
45 Boxing stats
46 Autobahn auto
48 Pub pint
50 Finale
51 Ninny

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashley Fink, 34; Dan Byrd, 35; Joel McHale, 49; Ming-Na Wen, 57.

Happy Birthday: Be methodical when making plans this year. Choose to be practical, but don't deny your curiosity the luxury of researching every possibility. What you discover will whet your appetite for adventure while sticking to a budget. Exploring new possibilities will be enlightening as well as help you choose a path that has limitless potential. Leave the past behind you. Your numbers are 7, 12, 20, 24, 31, 33, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Expect inconsistency from others. Be prepared to rely on yourself, and it will help you raise your game and ward off becoming disgruntled. An energetic, positive approach will help you outmaneuver any competition you encounter. Get the facts and avoid uncertainty. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotions will interfere with your ability to get things done quickly. Face sensitive issues and get on with your day. A change in the way you feel will lead to greater freedom and peace of mind. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of your responsibilities without making a fuss, and you'll gain respect and the chance to excel. Fact-check what others say to avoid being put in a precarious position. A romantic gesture will cause confusion or uncertainty. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Talk personal matters through before you make a move. Having the approval of someone

you love will make a difference in the way you move forward. Shared finances will be a problem if someone isn't able to contribute as much. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Go on a journey that will lead to information, new possibilities and choices. Don't feel you have to follow in someone's footsteps. Do your own thing, and don't begrudge others if they take a different route. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Set the stage for success. Preparation, detail, and developing something marketable will lead to new beginnings and a better lifestyle. The adjustments you make will teach you that you can do anything you set out to achieve. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An emotional plea will help you uncover a sensitive issue you face with someone close to you. Be wise to manipulative tactics used to make you feel guilty. It's time to make clear what you can and cannot do. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Use discretion when dealing with friends and relatives. If you share your opinions or plans, it will affect the way someone feels about you. Give others the same respect and freedom you want in return. A unique lifestyle change looks inviting. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you don't like something, make a change. Stop letting others put demands on you and start picking what you want to do and who you want in your life. Love and romance are in the stars. ****

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be careful how you handle emotional matters. Be mindful of the way others feel.



Go about your business, and take care of your responsibilities. An unusual offer can change your direction. Take better care of your health. Moderation will be necessary. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Concentrate on what you have to do to remain current. Don't let important documents or contracts lapse. Stay on top of your responsibilities, and don't take on more than you can handle. Stick to a budget, and avoid indulgent behavior. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't share information regarding your finances, health or intentions. Listen more and reveal less, and you'll have the upper hand when it comes to competitive situations. A joint venture with someone you love will improve your life. ***

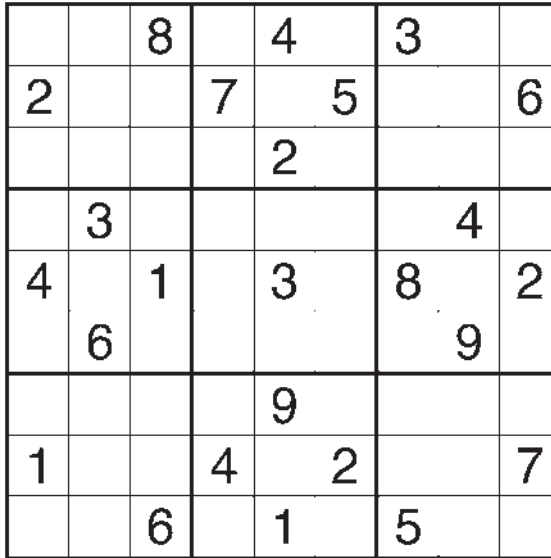


Birthdays: You are unique, creative and mindful. You are resourceful and adventuresome.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

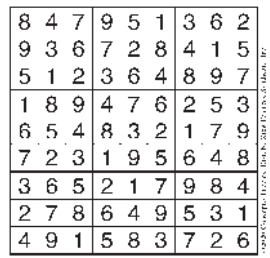


Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THINGS THAT ARE HORIZONTAL Solution: 7 letters

T D N U O R G R A P H S E A T
O R S A X I S L C I R B A F N
P I A T P B R I C K S R R R E
O V A N E R O N H C N E B A M
C E H L S G O E O P E N A M P
E W B L I V D N L Z R N L E I
N A S I E G E A E R E A A V U
T Y R H S L N R G E D B N Q
R I I R M E L M S V L Z C E E
I H A D E E T A E E O C E S M
C S T O T V R A R N H S D I W
L A S O I I O G L A T E R A L
I D N W O H A C R F P R L A O
F L U S H M D T R O O L F N B
F E N C E K S E D R S I L L S

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Wolves select Edwards with No. 1 pick in NBA Draft

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



Anthony Edwards paid tribute to his mother and grandmother. Onyeka Okongwu recalled his brother. Obi Toppin thought about coming home.

Tears flowed freely for those and many more players Wednesday night when their long-awaited, months-delayed NBA dreams were finally realized.

Edwards was taken by the Minnesota Timberwolves with the No. 1 pick in an NBA draft delayed multiple times because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Commissioner Adam Silver announced the pick from ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Connecticut. The draft was originally scheduled for June 25 before multiple delays caused by the virus pushed it back out and out of its usual home at Barclays Center in Brooklyn. Boxes of hats were shipped to the top prospects to put on the one they needed after their name was called.

Edwards watched while seated next to portraits of his late mother and grandmother. They both died of cancer and he was emotional after his name was announced.

"As far as just being excited and just being happy and ready to go and ready to work and ready to get there as soon as possible, those emotions were overwhelming with just my mother and grandmother being there," Edwards said. "I mean, it was just a dream come true and just a blessing."

And though there wasn't the usual family table in the green room and trip on stage to meet the commissioner, some players still were outfitted in fashionable attire — perhaps none more than No. 12 pick Tyrese Haliburton of Sacramento, whose blue, floral suit had the words "Black Lives Matter" on the inside.

They celebrated with family, friends, coaches — and



In this Jan. 4, 2020, file photo, Georgia's Anthony Edwards (5) looks to pass the ball during the second half of the team's NCAA college basketball game against Memphis in Memphis, Tenn.

in Cole Anthony's case, even celebrity fans. Movie director Spike Lee jumped up and down with his family when Orlando took Anthony, whose father, Greg played for the Knicks, at No. 15.

Some moments triggered deeper emotions. Okongwu, taken No. 6 by Atlanta, recalled his older brother, Nnamdi, who died after a skateboarding accident in 2014.

Toppin, the national player of the year last season at Dayton, struggled to speak after New York took him at No. 8, bringing the Brooklyn-born forward to his hometown.

"I'm from New York, that's why it's important," Toppin said. "Me repping my city, it's amazing."

Edwards became the 11th straight one-and-done player to be the No. 1 pick, coming in a year where there was no clear obvious choice. He averaged 19.1 points for the Bulldogs, tops among all freshman.

The Golden State Warriors, stung by the news that Klay Thompson sustained another leg injury earlier Wednesday, took Memphis center James Wiseman with the second pick.

They stumbled to the bottom of the league while Thompson missed the entire season with a torn ACL in his left knee.

The severity of his injury had not been revealed as the draft began but it didn't persuade the Warriors to take another guard. Instead they went with the 7-foot-1 center who arrived as the No. 1 recruit out of high school and averaged 19.7 points and 10.7 rebounds in three games before he was suspended for eligibility reasons and eventually left the program to prepare for the draft.

LaMelo Ball then went to the Charlotte Hornets, the next stop on a lengthy basketball journey that sent the guard from

high school in California to stops as a professional in Lithuania and Australia. He joined brother Lonzo, taken No. 2 by the Lakers and now in New Orleans, to give the Bulls two brothers taken in the top three picks.

After all his travels, Ball is eager to make a home playing for Michael Jordan's team in Charlotte.

"I feel like I can go out there and play basketball," Ball said. "I feel like I was born to do this."

The newcomers will have precious little time to prepare for their debuts and need to knock off months of rust or more — Wiseman hasn't played an organized game in

a year — without the benefit of summer league. Training camps open in early December and the 72-game 2020-21 season is set to begin on Dec. 22.

"This draft process has been the longest for me, so I've just been working on my game," Wiseman said. "I've actually been playing pickup games with pros already, so I've been getting a lot of experience. But really just focusing on myself. I'm truly ready to play with these great guys."

Teams had to evaluate prospects without benefit of the usual draft combine in Chicago or the ability to invite them to their facilities for workouts and meetings. And with the corona-

76ers shake up roster, deal Horford, Richardson at draft

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The first draft for the Philadelphia 76ers under new president Daryl Morey led to a major shakeup for an organization that fell well short of its NBA championship goal.

Morey undid last summer's major moves when he traded Al Horford to Oklahoma City and Josh Richardson to the Dallas Mavericks on draft night, shedding salary and beefing up the Sixers' shooting.

The Sixers also selected Kentucky guard Tyrese Maxey with the 21st pick Wednesday, the first selection under the new regime of Morey and coach Doc Rivers.

Rivers had quite the scouting report on the Dallas trade. The Sixers, who also sent the 36th pick of the draft to the Mavericks, acquired guard Seth Curry — Rivers' son-in-law.

Family counts for something, yes. But no doubt the Sixers were as intrigued by Curry's 44% career 3-point-shooting, a necessity for a team that struggled all season from long range.

The Sixers also sent Horford and a protected future first-

round pick to Oklahoma City in a trade with the Thunder.

The draft almost became an afterthought for a franchise expected to contend in the Eastern Conference only to get swept in the first round by the Boston Celtics. That led to coach Brett Brown's exit and a restructuring of the front office that ushered in Morey after a successful stint building the Houston Rockets into one of the top teams in the West.

Maxey might have had an inkling he was headed to Philadelphia.

"Fall in love with the process," he posted on Instagram hours before the draft.

The 76ers know all about the Process.

Philadelphia is set to learn about Maxey.

Maxey, who burst into tears when he was selected, averaged 19 points for Kentucky last season and shot 43% from the field. He extended Kentucky's streak of 11 straight drafts with a first-round pick. Maxey was the 30th first-round pick under coach John Calipari.

Maxey shot 29% from

3-point range.

He got an instant stamp of approval from Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James.

"CONGRATS Lil bro!! Proud of you kid. The work continues! Philly got a good one for sure!" James tweeted.

The 76ers also took Arkansas guard Isaiah Joe in the second round.

A person with knowledge of the Oklahoma City trade told The Associated Press the Sixers will receive Danny Green and Terrance Ferguson from the Thunder. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal had not yet been announced.

The Sixers sent a 2025 first-round pick, protected 1-6 overall, to Oklahoma City. They also shipped the 34th pick in Wednesday's draft and the rights to European point guard Vasilije Micic to the Thunder.

The 76ers traded Horford more than a year after he was considered a ballyhooed free-agent signing away from rival Boston. Horford didn't have the expected impact in the first season of a four-year contract worth \$97 million and lost his

starting spot late in the season. The Thunder are on the hook for Horford's \$27.5 million salary this season.

Horford averaged 11.9 points, 6.8 rebounds and 4.0 assists in his lone season with the Sixers. He never fit in playing alongside franchise center Joel Embiid in a season that cost coach Brown his job.

It was the first major move of the new era led by Morey and Rivers, and Philadelphia dumped millions in salary that appeared to hinder the Sixers from making any other big moves.

Horford didn't appear to fit in with the franchise moving forward under Rivers. The Sixers get major cap flexibility by taking Green with just \$15 million and one season left on his deal.

Richardson was acquired last summer in the deal that sent Jimmy Butler to Miami. Curry is set to make about \$8 million per year through the 2022-23 season. Richardson is set to make \$10.8 million in 2020-21 and has a player option worth \$11.6 million in 2021-22.

"Uh oh," Richardson tweeted.

Warriors Klay Thompson suffers leg injury, severity unclear

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Golden State guard Klay Thompson injured his leg Wednesday during a workout on his own in Southern California.

The team announced the injury without providing further details about the severity or any timeline for his availability with training camp starting Dec. 1 and the season beginning Dec. 22. Thompson was scheduled to be evaluated in the coming days, Golden State said.

It was unclear how this

might affect Golden State's draft decisions Wednesday, when the Warriors held the No. 2 overall selection.

This could be a severe blow for the Warriors, who finished worst in the NBA last season. Thompson didn't play at all during the coronavirus-shortened season as he worked back from surgery for a torn ACL in his left knee. He suffered that injury in the deciding Game 6 of the 2019 NBA Finals against the Toronto Raptors.

Cardinals and Seahawks set to clash in key NFC West showdown



SEATTLE (AP)—There was very little time for Kyler Murray and DeAndre Hopkins to enjoy the wave of celebration after one of the great game conclusions in Arizona Cardinals history.

Too much is at stake Thursday night when the Cardinals travel to Seattle.

The heroics of what Murray and Hopkins pulled off last Sunday with a last-second desperation touchdown for a 32-30 victory over Buffalo created the opportunity for Arizona to take control of the NFC West race if it can win in Seattle for the fifth time in the past six seasons.

“Going to Seattle is always a great atmosphere — you can’t deny that. But we’re playing for more than the fans, or the moment. We have a great opportunity,” Arizona’s Haason Reddick said. “That’s what everyone should be focused on, that’s the biggest goal at hand, that we can be No. 1 in the division with no tie. That’s what everyone should be focused on.”

The matchup is a massive game for both teams in what has become a three-team race in the NFC West with both Seattle and Arizona tied with the Los Angeles Rams on top of the division.

For Arizona, a victory would give it the season sweep of the Seahawks for the first time since 2009 and a one-game lead over Seattle.

For Seattle, a win would settle a rocky recent stretch, avoid the team’s first three-game losing streak since 2011, and be a major boost heading into an upcoming four-game stretch against teams with combined 8-28-1 records entering this week.

“We’re going to have to work our way back,” Se-



ahawks coach Pete Carroll said. “I know that we’re all tied right now and so that just makes the point of every game being a championship game more clear.”

Seattle’s concerns go beyond its two-game losing streak. Its defense continues to be problematic, but an additional issue has emerged in recent weeks in the play of quarterback Russell Wilson.

Once the leading candidate for the MVP award, Wilson has dipped ever since the earlier loss to the Cardinals. Including that game, Wilson has committed 10 turnovers and made the kinds of

mistakes the Seahawks can’t afford with the issues on the other side of the ball.

Wilson is 32-9 in his NFL career coming off a loss and hasn’t lost three straight games since his sophomore year in college at North Carolina State.

“I don’t ever think about that. ... I don’t ever think that way,” Wilson said.

WELCOME BACK

Seattle’s offense should get a boost with the return of running back Carlos Hyde. Both Hyde (hamstring) and Chris Carson (foot) were hurt in

the Week 7 game against Arizona and Seattle’s offensive balance has been off in the weeks since. Carson is listed as questionable.

Hyde had a season-high 68 yards rushing and a TD against Arizona in the first meeting.

Seattle also should have wide receiver Tyler Lockett available despite a knee injury. Lockett had a career-high 15 catches for 200 yards in the first game.

GROUND RAID

Arizona coach Kliff Kingsbury’s celebrated Air Raid offense has turned into the

Ground Raid this season.

The Cardinals are averaging nearly 169 yards rushing per game, which leads the NFL. Murray and running back Kenyan Drake are on pace for 1,000-yard seasons, while backup running back Chase Edmonds is on pace for more than 500.

“This offense is at its best when you’re running the ball,” Murray said. “When you can run the ball it just opens up everything else.”

SECONDARY CONCERN

Seattle welcomed safety Jamal Adams back to the lineup last

AP
Arizona Cardinals wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (10) pulls in the game winning touchdown pass as Buffalo Bills free safety Jordan Poyer (21) and strong safety Micah Hyde (23) defend during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 15, 2020, in Glendale, Ariz.

week, only to see him suffer a shoulder injury that left him playing with one arm. Adams is expected to play, but the Seahawks will still be without starting cornerbacks Shaquill Griffin and Quinton Dunbar.

Seattle is already the worst pass defense in the NFL, but showed some improvement in the second half last week against the Rams. Los Angeles had just six points and 114 yards in the second half.

“Everything that we do has to be consistent,” Seattle LB Bobby Wagner said. “It can’t be doing it one time and not do it the next. It has to be consistent. I’m confident in our guys and we’ll get it.”

SIMMONS IMPROVING

Cardinals rookie linebacker Isaiah Simmons is quickly becoming a bigger part of the defense and has had four tackles in each of his past two games.

His biggest moment of the season came against Seattle on Oct. 25 when he had an interception in overtime that helped start the winning drive.

The No. 8 overall pick from Clemson struggled in the first few games to adjust to the NFL. Coaches and teammates said a limited offseason because of COVID-19 protocols made it a tough transition.

Simmons’ improvement comes at a good time because the defense is dealing with several injuries, having already lost Chandler Jones and Corey Peters for the season.

By ROB MAADDI AP
PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

All NFL teams to enter intensive COVID-19 protocol Saturday

The NFL is placing all teams in intensive protocol starting Saturday to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 as the number of cases rises around the country.

Use of masks will be mandatory at all times at team facilities, including during practice and in weight rooms. Meetings must be held either virtually or in the largest indoor space with approval by the league. Meals have to be made available for grab-and-go to avoid players and staff congregating in cafeterias. Time spent in the locker room also has to be limited.

Clubs operating under the intensive protocols have reduced close contacts by more than 50% since the fifth week of the regular season, according to a memo obtained by

The Associated Press that was sent from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to teams on Wednesday.

“These sustained reductions and the resulting health and safety benefits make it appropriate to implement the intensive protocols on a mandatory, league-wide basis,” Goodell said in the memo.

So far, 28 teams have entered intensive protocol at some point and 16 teams have done it more than once.

“The upcoming holidays, beginning with Thanksgiving next week, will introduce new risks of exposure that we need to address now,” Goodell wrote. “Because we have a highly sophisticated program of daily testing, we know when the virus enters

our facilities, which underscores the importance of contact tracing and other steps to minimize close contacts within a facility.

“Recent experience has highlighted the importance of minimizing high-risk close contacts; on multiple occasions, we have seen individuals identified on that basis test positive within a short time. We have also seen many instances in which effective action by clubs to minimize these close contacts prevented the virus from spreading within the club, and avoided players or coaches being ruled out of practice or games.”

The NFL said Tuesday there were 17 new confirmed positives among players and 35 among other personnel during

testing from Nov. 8-14. That brought the league’s total to 95 players and 175 other personnel since Aug. 1, not counting new cases this week.

“The biggest motivator I find when we talk to the clubs about this is simply that if they are not in compliance with the protocols from a mask-wearing perspective or for some reason somebody forgot their device or something like that, they’re much more likely to be identified as a high-risk close contact than they would otherwise,” said Jeff Miller, the league’s executive vice president of communications, public affairs and policy.

“So when that individual coach or player is removed from the team environment for five days because their mask

was down, that’s a lesson learned throughout the facility. And so I don’t think we see a lot of repeat problems as far as that goes. Not everybody’s perfect all the time. But I think the biggest enforcement piece is taking somebody out of the team environment and potentially costing them the opportunity to play in the game or to go through a week’s worth of the practice. I think that part of it is a little bit undersold. It feels like a lot when we talk to the clubs as a behavior change mechanism.” Teams not having been in the intensive protocols are the Jets, Buccaneers, Seahawks and Washington.

“Well, it does shift some things,” Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. “It’s not a problem for us. ... So we’ll do

whatever. ... We’re gonna follow to the letter of the law, and continue to really have an attitude that we can pull this thing off. I think the mentality of it is important as anything, because it has to carry over into all aspects, and all facets of everybody’s lives.”

Asked his thoughts on the intensive protocol mandates, Broncos linebacker Alexander Johnson said: “We gotta do what we gotta do to get paid.”

Eagles cornerback Avonte Maddox, who lives with teammate Dallas Goedert, said they probably won’t host family or friends for Thanksgiving to avoid further risk.

“You gotta do whatever it takes to stay safe and be able to play this game,” Maddox said. “You have to be responsible at home and be ready for whatever they have planned for us.”

Mets' Canó suspended 162 games by MLB after drug test

NEW YORK (AP)—Strike two against Robinson Canó.

The New York Mets second baseman was suspended for 162 games by Major League Baseball on Wednesday after he tested positive for a performance-enhancing drug for the second time in his decorated career.

The 38-year-old Canó will miss the entire 2021 season and lose \$24 million in salary. The eight-time All-Star hit a robust .316 with 10 home runs and 30 RBIs in this year's pandemic-shortened season.

Minus Canó, the Mets could give offensive sparkplug Jeff McNeil a regular spot at second base — probably his most natural position. The suspension also might prompt them to pursue free agent infielder DJ LeMahieu, an AL MVP contender the past two years with the cross-town Yankees.

The penalty came less than two weeks after Steve Cohen bought the Mets for \$2.4 billion, a move that created an avalanche of positivity for a team that has reached the playoffs just three times in the last 20 years.



The commissioner's office said Canó tested positive for Stanozolol, an anabolic

steroid. He was penalized 80 games in May 2018 while with Seattle after a positive test for Furosemide, a diuretic that some athletes have used to mask other substances.

"We were extremely disappointed to be informed about

In this March 11, 2020, file photo, New York Mets second baseman Robinson Canó warms up prior to a spring training baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Robinson's suspension for violating Major League Baseball's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program," new Mets president Sandy Alderson said in a statement. "The violation is very unfortunate for him, the organization, our fans, and the sport. The Mets fully support MLB's efforts toward eliminating performance-enhancing substances from the game."

There was no immediate comment from Canó or the

players' union.

Alderson was hired by Cohen on the day the Mets sale was completed. General manager Brodie Van Wagenen exited the same day — Van Wagenen made the trade to get Canó from Seattle in December 2018 after previously being his agent.

In a move that polarized Mets fans, the high-priced Canó and big league saves leader Edwin Díaz were acquired in a deal that sent top outfield prospect Jarred Kelenic and young pitching to the Mariners.

Canó was set to head into the eighth season of his \$240 million, 10-year contract. He will not be eligible for the playoffs if the Mets make the postseason.

Seidler takes control of Padres after Fowler steps down

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Ron Fowler has stepped down as executive chairman of the San Diego Padres and lead investor Peter Seidler has been approved by fellow Major League Baseball owners to take over control of the team as chairman.

Fowler will remain with the club in the advisory role and will continue to sit on MLB's Labor Policy Committee.

Seidler, the lead investor in the group that bought the Padres in 2012, will be accountable to MLB for the operation of the team and following the rules.

Seidler, 60, previously held the title of general partner. He is a grandson of Walter

O'Malley, who moved the Dodgers from Brooklyn to Los Angeles, and a nephew of Peter O'Malley, who owned the Dodgers until 1998.

Fowler had been a minority owner of the Padres when they were sold to Seidler's group in 2012.

"Peter looked at it as a legacy investment for his family, I looked at it as more I wanted to get the Padres to where they needed to get to," said Fowler, a longtime San Diego businessman who made a fortune from his beer distributorship. "We knew this was going to happen. It was a question of when, not if ... Personally I think I have the best of both worlds. I get to hang around

for a while. I get to do some things with baseball, MLB, that I like and I'm still available to talk to Peter about what he thinks are priorities or where he thinks my input might be valuable."

"I'm looking forward to the future," Fowler said. "Maybe I can sit there and eat my hot dogs and not worry about anything else."

Fowler and Seidler hired A.J. Preller as general manager in 2014. Preller built up the farm system into one of the best in baseball, acquired shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. from the Chicago White Sox in 2016 and signed third baseman Manny Machado and first baseman Eric Hosmer to big free agent deals.

Cruz bags SGA September Ace

By **ROSELYN B. MONROY**
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REPORTER



John "Nani" Cruz shot a net 76 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort

earlier this month to clinch the Saipan Golfers Association's September Ace.

The 17-handicapper recorded a 40 on the front nine and a 43 on the back for a gross 66 on the west course of the Kagman facility and a five-shot win in the Nov. 8 competition. Jung Eun Teack and Rick Kautz joined Cruz in the Top 3 as the former delivered a net 71 and the latter recorded a net 72. The 14-handicapper Teack duplicated Cruz's score in the first nine holes and tallied a 45 in the last nine for a gross 85. Kautz, a 10-handicapper, struggled on the front nine with his 43, but made up for the slow start with his 39 on the back for a gross 82.

Kautz also hit one of the two longest drives (on the par-5, 478-yard hole No. 18) in the tournament, while Das Krishnan achieved the same feat in No. 2—another par-5 hole, but longer at 510 yards.

In the closest to the pin contest, Krishnan made it to the winners' list, too, with his PK on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, John "Nani" Cruz, standing fourth left, poses with his fellow Saipan Golfer Association players during the 2017 SGA Ace of Aces tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

the par-3, 189-yard No. 3. Joe Sablan, Manny Alvarez, and Larry Deleon Guerrero were the others players who made closest to the pin shots on par-3 holes. Sablan did it on the 160-yard No. 7, Alvarez on the 158-yard No. 13, and Deleon Guerrero on the 180-yard No. 17.

Meanwhile, with Cruz getting the September Ace he also gained entry to the SGA Ace of Aces (club championship), joining early qualifiers Attorney General Edward Manibusan (January Ace),

Teack (February), Nick Sablan (March), Juan "Pan" Guerrero (April), Krishnan (May), Larry Deleon Guerrero (June), Steve Balakrishna (July), and Edward Sablan (August).

Only three more slots are at stake for SGA's season-ending competition and one will be up for grabs this Sunday when the group holds the November Ace tournament on the east course of Laolay Bay Golf & Resort. The November Ace event will also double as SGA's Turkey Shootout.

GIANNIS

From Page 24

shooting guard Bogdan Bogdanovic via sign-and-trade with the Sacramento Kings. Bogdanovic and throw-in Justin James were supposed to go out East in exchange for the Bucks' youth and depth (Don't DiVincenzo, D.J. Wilson, and Ersan Ilyasova).

Bogdanovic would've been the 3-point sharpshooter (career 37% from the land of plenty) the Bucks badly needed last postseason when the Miami Heat zoned the Bucks and Antetokounmpo to death by packing the shaded lane. The 28-year-old may only be entering his fourth season in the Association, but the 6'6" shooting guard/small forward has been a pro in Europe since 2010 when he was just 18 years old.

Milwaukee's trade for Bogdanovic, however, reportedly fell through when no one from the bungling Kings management actually checked on the sweet-shooting Serbian if he was amenable to the sign-and-trade in the first place. He wasn't so the Bucks are back to square one, which doesn't bode well if you were supposed to pull out all the stops

to retain your franchise cornerstone. Now, Bogdanovic is about to enter free agency with the freedom to choose the team he wants to play for.

Honestly, even if the trade for Bogi (as opposed to Boogie for former Kings all-star DeMarcus Cousins) went through I would still have doubts if Milwaukee would've had enough to seriously contend in the suddenly souped-up Eastern Conference with the Miami Heat, Boston Celtics, and, of course, the New Jersey Nets with Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving (and even perhaps James Harden) coming back from injuries atop the totem pole.

Milwaukee indeed would've arguably have the NBA's best starting five with Brook Lopez starting at center, Antetokounmpo and Kris Middleton at forwards, and Bogdanovic and Holiday in the guard spots. However, the talent would've a dramatic drop off outside that "death lineup" (nobody really expects Antetokounmpo and company to play 48 minutes per game this coming season).

Not only did the trades for Holiday and Bogdanovic deprived the Bucks of their previously heralded depth, ty-

ing first round picks and pick swaps in the Holiday trade basically mortgaged Milwaukee's future. Antetokounmpo would be dumb to sign the super max extension now after Milwaukee's botched moves to upgrade the roster. It's still too early, but who else is left and getting a superstar like Bradley Beal from the Washington Wizards or even a disgruntled Harden from the Houston Rockets would mean dealing Middleton and multiple drafts picks resulting in the aforementioned bare cupboard.

As days turn into weeks into the Giannis sweepstakes I'm only reminded more of LeBron James' last season in his first go-around in Cleveland, one where the Cavaliers' starting five consisted of the hollowed shells of former all-stars Shaquille O'Neal, Antawn Jamison, and Mo Williams. After the 2010 season that ended in playoff defeat against the Celtics' Big 3, The King left for South Beach. Here's hoping that Antetokounmpo would follow LeBron's footsteps and land in Miami. By the way, Giannis and Miami breakout star Bam Adebayo share agents (wink, wink).

REPEAT

From Page 24

plete co-ed team (six runners plus one alternate and the Torchbearers will be up against the representatives of Mt. Carmel, Isla Montessori and Kagman Elementary School.

The final qualifying races in the middle school and high school will also take place this weekend with the U14 and U18 students running at the CPA Airport Field tomorrow morning.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mt. Carmel School runners keep a steady pace as they navigate the first half of the 1.1-mile course during the elementary school division race.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Repeat for Agape, Brilliant Star

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It seems like Agape Christian School and Brilliant Star School runners are favored to battle for the top individual honors in the co-ed elementary division of the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series judging from the results of the first two qualifiers.

Agape's Jessie Campbell ruled Heat 2 of the second qualifier for the U11 age group after clocking in at 8:15 in the 1.1-mile race held last Friday at the CPA Airport Field. His time was five seconds faster than his record in the opening leg, which he also won.

On Heat 1, Brilliant Star's Akeen Edvalson checked in at 8:01 to top the group that had 23 runners. Edvalson's



victory made it two in a row for Brilliant Star, as Moshe Sikkell prevailed in the first qualifier last Nov. 6 with the fastest time (7:56) so far this season. Sikkell did not race in the second leg, as Brilliant Star brought a new set of runners for last weekend's event.

In other results, coming in at second place on Heat 2 was Saipan Community School's Emma Sablan. Saipan International School's Landon Pud-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Agape Christian School runners head out to the course during the opening leg of the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series held early this month at the CPA Airport Field

Giannis is good as gone

Giannis Antetokounmpo is good as gone and the Milwaukee Bucks just don't know it yet.

The team from Cream City tried to surround The Greek Freak with a championship-contending roster by executing a couple of trades the past several days. One went through and the other fell through, horribly.

Milwaukee fans cheered when the Bucks acquired former all-star and two-way stud Jrue Holiday from the New Orleans Pelicans for point guards Eric Bledsoe and George Hill, three first round picks, and pick swaps.

The two-time NBA All-Defensive Team member (2018 and 2019) and one-time NBA All-Star (2013) is

MARKSMAN

By MARK RABAGO
Associate Editor

Growing up Mark wanted to play pro basketball. When his talent and height didn't measure up, he opted for a career in journalism instead.



a huge upgrade over Bledsoe, who bombed in the playoffs last year, and Hill, who had moments in the postseason last year from a leadership

standpoint but is getting longer in the tooth. A career 15.9 points per game scorer in the regular season, the 6'6" combo-guard from UCLA was even better in the playoffs by norming 17 points in 30 total playoff games with the Philadelphia 76ers and the Pelicans.

Milwaukee appeared headed toward convincing Antetokounmpo to stay by signing the super max when they followed up the Holiday trade by seemingly getting

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AP
Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo reacts after hurting his ankle during the first half of an NBA conference semifinal playoff basketball game against the Miami Heat Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

ney, Suki Peng, and Aubrey White completed the Top 5, making the Geckos a threat to Agape and Brilliant Star's bids for top team honors in next month's championship round.

The final race in the U11 division will be held on Dec. 4 with the team award to be decided based on the combined performance (accumulated points with the squad getting the lowest scoring winning the category) of the Top 4 finishers of each school.

Agape had two other runners placing in the Top 5 of Heat 2 in the second qualifier with Benjamin Cai ranked third behind Mt. Carmel School's Stephen Yeom and

Daniel Huang finishing fifth. Isla Montessori School's Oliver Pauling came in at fourth on Heat 2, which had 12 other U11 runners completing the one-lap race.

Meanwhile, the third and last qualifying race in the elementary division will be held this Friday afternoon. Both Sikkell and Edvalson will be racing for Brilliant Star on Heat 1 and they will battle new set of runners from SIS and returnees from Saipan Community School and William S. Reyes Elementary School.

On Heat 2, Campbell will again anchor Agape's com-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Middle school runners go for the first lap of the 2.1-mile course during the second leg of the cross country series.